

Bomb blast kills 13 in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (R) — A powerful bomb exploded in a small Peshawar hotel Saturday, killing 13 people in an attack Pakistan said was carried out by the Soviet-backed Afghan government. The high-intensity bomb destroyed the two upper floors of the three-storey Prince hotel in the capital of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province when it exploded at 4.15 a.m. (2315 GMT), police said. Four people were wounded and police said the death toll could climb. The province's chief minister, retired General Faez Haq, told reporters agents of the Afghan government secret service Khad were responsible for the blast. Haq said: "There is little doubt that whatever sabotage activities are going on, Kabul is involved because of our policy on Afghanistan." Pakistan provides sanctuary for an estimated three million Afghan refugees and supplies military aid to rebels battling the government of President Najibullah. Peshawar serves as the headquarters of the loose, seven-party rebel alliance fighting the Kabul government. "The more the fighting is intensified inside Afghanistan, the more bomb explosions will take place in Pakistan. We have to face this," Haq said.

Jordan Times

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Gemayel sends envoy to Syria

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, signalling improved ties with Syria, sent a personal envoy to Damascus Saturday for talks on ensuring smooth presidential elections in Lebanon. A presidential palace source said Gemayel despatched one of his closest aides, Joseph Al Hachem, minister for health and social welfare and posts and communications. Gemayel's first envoy to Damascus in more than two years since the Maronite Christian leader fell out with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad by refusing to endorse a Syrian-brokered peace pact aimed at ending the civil war. The two leaders resumed a dialogue earlier this month during an Arab summit in Algiers. Local newspapers said Hashem, a member of the main Falange Party, would try to arrange another meeting between Gemayel and Assad prior to the presidential elections in August. Syria has been involved in months of intensive discussions with U.S. officials to ensure smooth polls when Gemayel ends his six-year term in September.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

'British hostages to be freed'

BEIRUT (AP) — The government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini reportedly hopes to influence the American presidential elections this fall by releasing British hostages on the eve of the vote, according to an article in a Beirut magazine released Saturday. The weekly Al Shiraa reported that the agreement to release the hostages emerged during a three-day unofficial visit by four British legislators to Iran which ended Wednesday. "Reliable Muslim fundamentalist circles have confirmed that British-Iranian negotiations to free British hostages held in Lebanon will result (in their release) on the eve of the American presidential elections," the report said.

Magazine confirms anti-Geagea plots

BEIRUT (AP) — The official magazine of Lebanon's main rightist militia said Saturday there were three assassination attempts against its leader, Samir Geagea, in the past six weeks. The weekly Al Masira said two of the previously unreported attempts occurred in the first week of June, and confirmed that a car-bomb explosion May 13 was directed against Geagea. The weekly magazine said the latest attempt was by a suicide bomber who planned to crash an explosive-packed car into Geagea's command headquarters in east Beirut. The magazine blamed the attempt on Elie Hobeika, 31, the Syrian-backed former leader of the 6,000-strong Lebanese Forces who was ousted by pro-Israeli Geagea after armed clashes between their supporters Jan. 15, 1986.

France doubts TASS report

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The French embassy said Saturday it doubted a report by the Soviet news agency TASS that two Frenchmen have been killed in Afghanistan. "TASS sent the same message two months ago and it was totally wrong," said embassy spokesman Eric Fournier. He said the embassy was still inquiring but had obtained nothing to substantiate the TASS claim. TASS said Friday two French military advisers training Afghan anti-communist fighters were killed when government troops attacked a rebel base in southeastern Kabul province. It did not name the victims or say when they were killed.

Morocco, Zaire seek Angola-UNITA talks

LISBON (AP) — The president of Zaire and the king of Morocco are coordinating efforts for peace talks between the Angolan government and the rebel movement UNITA, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said Friday. Lusa, quoting an unidentified African diplomatic source in the Moroccan capital of Rabat, said King Hassan II and President Mobutu Sese Seko were working to bring about a meeting between Angolan government leaders and UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi.

Fiji expels New Zealand lawyer

AUCKLAND (AP) — A New Zealand lawyer hired to represent several men accused of sedition and arms smuggling in Fiji said he was expelled from the island nation Saturday after a three-day detention. Christopher Harder returned to an emotional welcome by his family in Auckland Saturday. He did not say why he had been detained and expelled, or what charges, if any, were lodged against him. Fijian officials refused to comment on the expulsion. Harder, who had been admitted to the Fiji bar earlier in the week, said he was hired to represent eight chiefs from the island of Rotuma who were charged with sedition for allegedly plotting a breakaway from Fiji. He also was hired by five men of Indian descent who have been accused of trying to smuggle Soviet-made weapons to Fiji through Australia.

Damaged U.S. ship to ride home

BAHRAIN (AP) — The mine-damaged U.S. missile frigate Samuel B. Roberts was towed out of Dubai Saturday towards a Gulf island to be loaded aboard a specially-built cargo vessel that will take it back to the United States. The 3,600-ton frigate, severely damaged when it hit a submerged Iranian mine April 14, has undergone preliminary repairs at a Dubai shipyard and will be rebuilt in the United States, U.S. officials say. The ship, the USS Samuel B. Roberts, was chartered by the navy to carry the Roberts, was anchored off Abu Nu'ayr Island, 100 kilometres west of Dubai.

Bomb explodes at S. African restaurant

EAST LONDON, South Africa (AP) — Scores of patrons at a beachfront restaurant were evacuated to safety early Saturday morning before a bomb exploded, police said. The explosion occurred five minutes after midnight at the Papagallo restaurant on East London's seaside Esplanade. The bomb, a Soviet-made lump mine, was discovered by a waitress who alerted the manager, police said. Police arrived, evacuated about 90 diners and were in the process of evacuating people from neighbouring hotels when the bomb exploded, less than 20 minutes after it had been spotted.

China to test new attack plane

PEKING (AP) — China's new attack fighter jet with advanced Italian avionics will make its first test flight next month, an official report said Saturday. The AS-M, an updated version of the AS supercruise twin-jet attack plane, is the product of a 1986 agreement between the Italian airline Aeritalia and the Nanhang Aircraft Manufacturing Corporation, the China Daily newspaper said. The Chinese side is producing the body of the plane while Aeritalia is providing its radio navigation, firing control system and other electronic equipment, the state-run daily said.

Warships dodge Malta protesters

VALLETTA (R) — The British navy arrived in Malta Saturday to a warm welcome from government supporters after dodging protesters who blocked the island's grand harbour with ships. Thousands of supporters of the ruling Nationalist Party waved British flags and cheered the carrier Ark Royal as it sailed into St. Paul's Bay with the destroyer Edinburgh and two auxiliary ships. The squadron sidestepped demonstrators from the opposition Labour Party who expected it to anchor in Valletta's grand harbour, 12 kilometres to the southeast. The Labour Party has led a campaign against the British squadron's visit, saying it violates Malta's principles of non-alignment and neutrality. The party also says the warships carry nuclear weapons.

Trial of Nasser's son to open in October

CAIRO (R) — The eldest son of the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser and other alleged members of an underground group will go on trial in October, Egyptian judicial authorities said Saturday. Prosecutors have demanded the death penalty for Khaled Abdul Nasser, a 38-year-old engineer now in self-exile in Yugoslavia, and for 10 others. They are accused of criminal complicity, incitement and providing funds for a secret group called "Egypt's revolution." Nine others face jail for convicted on lesser charges. They include Nasser's cousin Gamal Shawkil Abdul Nasser, the son of a former vice-president, who is still at large.



SHEIKH HAMAD LEAVES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials see off Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa upon his departure Saturday after a two-day visit during which he discussed with the Regent the latest developments in the Arab region and bilateral relations (Petra photo)

Uno stresses Japan's interest in Mideast

CAIRO (AP) — Japan's foreign minister said Saturday his current Middle East tour reflects the interest his prime minister, Noboru Takeshita, has in peace efforts in the region.

The minister, Sosuke Uno, spoke about Japan's desire for an active role in Middle East peace-making after conferring with President Hosni Mubarak.

Uno arrived in Cairo Friday after visits to Syria and Jordan. He travels Sunday to Israel, the last stop in his Middle East tour.

"The Japanese people and media support my current visits to this region," he said. "Japan should play a greater role in establishing world peace."

He said Mubarak "told me he appreciates Japan's role ... and welcomes any help or efforts by the government of Japan to achieve peace in the Middle East."

Uno evaded questions on the nature and substance of an expanded Japanese role in the Middle East but said:

"Prime Minister Takeshita and myself have an interest in the Middle East peace process, and that is why I am visiting the region to have a political dialogue with its leaders."

Uno said he briefed Mubarak on the outcome of last week's seven-nation Western economic summit in Toronto, Canada.

Uno later had a 90-minute meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Esmat Abdul Meguid, for talks on bilateral relations in addition to regional issues.

Soviets hit Canada with more expulsions

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet Union shot back in a diplomatic war Saturday, expelling the Canadian embassy's military attaché, harrasing seven former Canadian diplomats from returning and ordering 25 Soviet workers to leave the mission.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh summoned Canadian Ambassador Vernon Turner and told him that Defence Attaché Larry Bowen was expelled for activities incompatible with his diplomatic duties, the official news agency TASS said.

In addition, Turner was told that seven former Canadian diplomats in Moscow would not be welcome back.

The action marked a major escalation of the battle over spying charges between Canada and the Soviet Union.

TASS said Bessmertnykh told Turner that the Ottawa government had "resorted to a new hostile action" by expelling the senior Soviet military attaché and barring three other Soviet diplomats from returning.

The Kremlin's withdrawal of 25 of its 39 Soviet workers could have a crippling effect on the Canadian mission in Moscow. Soviet authorities pulled out all 260 Soviet employees from the U.S. embassy in Moscow Oct. 22, 1986, in retaliation for American expulsions of Soviet diplomats.

The fallout forced American diplomats to do the cooking, cleaning, driving, translating and answering phones at the Moscow embassy and U.S. consulate in Leningrad.

An angry Soviet response had been expected after Canada Thursday added two more Soviets to the list of diplomats it has expelled.

The tit-for-tat expulsions began last weekend when Canada expelled eight Soviet diplomats and barred a further nine from returning to the country, accusing them of indulging in industrial espionage.

In retaliation, Moscow expelled two Canadian diplomats and barred three more from returning from abroad.

time customers Thursday. The governor of the nearby Black Sea port of Trabzon, Enver Hizlan, put the number of missing people, including three German tourists, at 44.

"There are another 14 injured, which adds up to 58 which is the estimated number of people in the (buried) restaurant," he told Anatolian news agency.

Searchers have been constantly menaced by new landslides and suspended operations for about two hours Saturday.

Iraqis recapture Majnoon Islands

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Saturday its forces recaptured all the oil-rich Majnoon Islands, held by Iran since 1984, inflicting the third defeat on its Gulf war foe in nine weeks.

Iran admitted that its troops withdrew to "new defensive positions" in the face of an assault by "massive Iraqi forces," but reported heavy fighting was still raging.

Tehran Radio claimed the Iraqis forced the defenders back through "extensive use of chemical weapons" to storm the islands.

These are in fact a network of mud and sand mounds linked by causeways and pontoon bridges in the Majnoon oilfields east of the Tigris River.

Palestinian protests continue

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian during a West Bank protest Saturday and police arrested dozens of Palestinians in Jerusalem suspected of throwing stones.

Soldiers shot Na'el Mobamad Al Arboudi, 20, in the leg during a clash in Nablus, hospital sources said.

The army had lifted a curfew imposed after two Jewish settlers opened fire on Palestinians who stoned their car Friday.

In Ramallah, witnesses quoted by Reuters said, soldiers fired rubber bullets to disperse protesters burning tyres and stoning military patrols. The army closed the city to the press.

About 20 Palestinians stoned Arab and Israeli cars in Arab Jerusalem's main Nablus road, knocking out the windows of a bus and damaging an Arab car, witnesses said.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse them and arrested four protesters. They besieged the nearby Schmidt's college for girls where protesters took refuge.

Israeli forces earlier arrested five Palestinians after demonstrators threw stones at a police car in central Salaeddin Street, reports said.

Helicopter and at least 150 police and border guards patrolled the skies and streets of Jerusalem.

Police stopped students from entering three Jerusalem schools that have been the source of demonstrations in recent days, Israeli sources said.

In Gaza City, Israeli troops demolished the second floor of a house, welded shut the doors of eight stores and sealed three side streets in retaliation for a fire-bomb attack last Monday that injured two soldiers, the army said.

In the streets, soldiers from an infantry unit were seen searching passers-by and checking their documents, and Arab reporter in Gaza said. He said the town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip was closed to all traffic.

In Ramallah, a protest erupted in the central Manara Square after some 200 Muslim fundamentalists held a meeting at the nearby mosque. Israeli witnesses said.

They said troops fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters. No injuries were reported.

In other protests in the West Bank, 10 Palestinians from Ayda prospects written by Bassam Abu Shanif, a close aide to Arafat, and published in the London-based Middle East Mirror.

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Arafat has refused to say whether it was an authentic PLO policy statement.

Mustapha said Arafat had sent one of his advisors with the "bad document" to an Arab leader to relay it to Washington.

He said he had sent an urgent message to Arafat asking him to deny any connection with it but received no reply.

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Regent congratulates Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday cabled congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the liberation of Majnoon Islands. The Regent expressed pride in the victories that the Iraqi forces achieved, and conveyed congratulations in his name and in the name of the Jordanian government and people. He wished Iraq further victories.

PLO official asserts Arafat harmed cause

DAMASCUS (R) — A Palestinian official accused Yasser Arafat Saturday of harming the Palestinian cause with a statement apparently taking a softer line against Israel.

Ahu Ali Mustapha, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, called in a statement for an emergency session of the PLO Central Council.

"I knew through confirmed information that the PLO chairman was personally behind issuing this document," said Mustapha, a deputy chairman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

He was referring to an article on Israel and Middle East peace prospects written by Bassam Abu Shanif, a close aide to Arafat, and published in the London-based Middle East Mirror.

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New concept for security: Increased interaction between police, public

AMMAN (J.T.) — Speaking to the British Jordanian Friendship Society Saturday night, Public Security Director, General Abdul Hadi Majali brought to the surface several issues facing the Public Security Department (PSD).

According to Majali the new concept of "comprehensive security" is based on three basic premises, "security and peace in the society are not achieved simply by protecting the society from the danger of crime, traditional law enforcement methods are not sufficient for comprehensive crime prevention; and the roots of crime are found in society itself. As such, a major part of crime prevention should concern itself with thorough investigation of these roots, and the development of methods and techniques for dealing with them."

Using these premises, Majali then outlined the framework which the police organisations should ideally follow in performing its functions.

Herebelow is the full text of the speech:

IT IS indeed a great honour for me to be amongst you here today. And, before proceeding any further, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the British-Jordanian Friendship Society for allowing me the opportunity to talk to you about the new philosophy which has been developed for the Public Security Directorate in Jordan.

This philosophy is the culmination of an extensive intellectual and physical effort, requiring a huge investment of time and energy for its conception and implementation. It is primarily motivated by the utter conviction of the importance of the role of the public security organisation in society, and by the desire to be worthy of the trust that His Majesty has graciously bestowed upon it, by charging it with the noblest of missions, namely, that of protecting the society, maintaining its law and order, and providing all those who live in it with a safe and secure environment in which to live.

I am indeed very grateful for being allowed to share with you today ideas on this subject, for it is a subject that is dear to my heart, and one that has dominated my entire being ever since I have had the honour to command the public security organisation, and to lead it in its fight against crime.

The concept of law and order is as old as the notion of the socio-political state itself. Indeed, it is an integral part of this notion, and is, in the final analysis, an attempt to satisfy the societal requirements that have evolved all throughout the human experience. "Security", "law enforcement", "public safety", are all different facets of the same concept, emanating from political philosophies and ideologies, adopted by specific states in order to attain their strategic objectives.

But no matter what the state, no matter what the ideology, no matter what the objectives, it is an undeniable fact that maintaining law and order is a human need, a societal need, and a socio-organisational need. Above all, it is a political reality without which no state can exist.

The traditional role of the law enforcement agency has been, as the name suggests, to enforce the law, to combat crime and to bring to justice its perpetrators. And inasmuch as the law enforcement agency is typically part of the executive branch of government, it relies, in the execution of its mission, on the authority it possesses by virtue of its political status. Depending on the society in which this organisation exists, this self-referential authority can range from legal and legitimate (when proper procedure is adhered to and when civil rights are respected and honoured) to oppressive and dictatorial (when the rule of the sword prevails). It is this traditional role of law enforcement that gives rise, even in the most justly governed societies, to a potentially negative perception of the law enforcement organisation.

This is one of the main reasons why modern thinking has challenged the traditional notions of law enforcement, by broadening substantially the scope of the responsibilities of the law enforcement organisation, and by charging it not only with the mission of preserving the legitimacy of the regime and maintaining the safety and security of the society, but also of protecting the freedoms and the rights of the individuals in society, and performing all functions and tasks necessary to provide a peaceful and tranquil environment in which to live.

In so doing, the perception of the police organisation can be totally changed, and the negative can be turned to positive. No longer will the police be thought of as "bullies", or as "licensed killers", or as "criminals with a badge". On the contrary, they can now be thought of as protectors of the innocent, as friends of the needy, and as ever-present watchful eyes. At least, that is what every modern and civilised police force management attempts to achieve.

A close look at the operational structure of any modern security organisation reveals that, basically, that organisation has the following dimensions to it:

1. The administrative dimension: This deals with traditional functions of law enforcement, such as the maintenance of law and order and preserving the general safety of the society. Also included in this dimension are tasks performed by the police in their capacity as executors of the government orders, as prescribed by the law. Functions relating to traffic and highway patrol, licensing functions, night security patrols, are all examples of functions performed within the administrative dimension.

2. The judicial dimension: This involves functions relating to the support of the judicial system. They can include tasks generated from within the system: For instance, the apprehension of an escaped felon; or tasks aimed at offering assistance to the system: For instance, the collection of evidence and the performance of tasks aimed at providing evidence, e.g. forensic lab testing, fingerprint identification, ballistic analysis, etc.

3. The social dimension: This is a relatively new addition to the traditional ones mentioned earlier. It stems from the relatively novel definition of the police force as a social organisation, not simply a government executive organisation. Since the police interfaces with all aspects of the social structure, and deals with their problems on a daily basis, it is ideally suited for being regarded as a contributing partner in the development of social values and obligations, in the formation and definition of society's goals and objectives, and in bridging the gap between the needs of the individual and those of society as a whole. Rehabilitation centres, juvenile centres, neighbourhood watch programmes, civic programmes, are all examples of social functions performed by the police force within the scope of the social dimension.

4. The technological dimension: This includes services offered by one or more specialised departments within the police force, in order to enable other departments to perform any of the above-mentioned functions. Data processing, communications, transportation, vehicle maintenance, are typical support functions.

It is perhaps appropriate to pause for a moment, and investigate the factors that have led to this change of role definition of the traditional law enforcement agency on the part of the modern police managers. Possibly some of the more prominent factors are:

1. The change in the understanding of the notions of crime and punishment, advocated by various sociological theories, which tend to regard the perpetrator of the crime as a victim himself, specifically a victim of social circumstances, values and influences that have caused him to commit the crime in the first place. Viewed from that perspective, the nature of the sentence has to change correspondingly, from that of punishment to that of rehabilitation. It therefore becomes the responsibility of the police organisation not only to uphold the law (by apprehending the criminal who was sentenced by the judicial system, for instance), but to provide him with an environment (even during his jail sentence) and to develop programmes which will instill in him social, moral, educational and professional values aimed at making him a useful member of society instead of alienating him from society and punishing him severely.

2. The recognition of the importance of the public relations department of the police force in liaising with the public and explaining to them the perspective of the police in the performance of their duties. The role of the police as investigators of crime has caused most people to view the police officer, because of the very nature of his job, as the persecutor in society, without regard to his duties or his motivations. Bridges of trust and mutual respect need to be built between the police, whose responsibility it is to apprehend the criminal, and members of the society, who are the beneficiaries of such acts. Better communication leads to better understanding of each other's perspectives, which in turn leads to more trust, respect and cooperation.

3. The change in the nature of the police duties. No longer is the police regarded as a para-military organisation. Its functions include many civilian duties, perhaps even more so than traditional ones. This shift in emphasis places the police organisation within the ranks of civilian organisations, as opposed to military ones.

4. The technological advancement in many police-related activities. This has opened up many new horizons to the police organisation, and has allowed it to delve into numerous applications with the help of tools and equipment heretofore unavailable to it.

All of these factors have contributed significantly to the development of new philosophies and perspectives in the police world. New responsibilities, new missions, and new duties have been added to those functions already performed by the police organisation. However, during this process of change, the following points must be emphasised:

A. That the police organisation will continue to perform its basic and traditional duties, regardless of what new responsibilities might be placed on it.

B. That the new role adopted by the police organisation came about as a reaction to developing social thought and values. It is not possible for any law enforcement organisation to isolate itself from the currents of social change, nor to perform its functions independently of such change.

C. That the police organisation, in the performance of its new duties, does not do so in lieu of other organisations. It merely complements the functions performed by the specialised agencies in matters relating to civic and social development. In so doing, the policeman shifts his role from law enforcer to researcher, guide and advisor; from henchman to social reformer; and from court bailiff to a major partner in social development.

5. Ensuring that sufficient resources exist within the organisation to give nationwide service in all areas of jurisdiction, without the need to depend on other agencies to perform the required tasks. And finally,

6. Defining an overall strategic plan to ensure that security prevails, and developing goals and objectives for the authorities to adopt in order to support such a plan, and coordinating with the various organisations and institutions involved in the maintenance of such a plan.

In developing this framework, we hope to attain goals and realise objectives in many different aspects of society. These goals are realised by virtue of the security organisation performing several functions, not the least important of which are:

1. The security function: The functions of crime prevention and crime detection are performed with considerable effectiveness in light of the above principles. By providing the police organisation with insight into the nature of society, better measures can be put into effect to prevent crime. By the same token, should a crime occur, the police can be in a better position to identify its perpetrators by relying, in part, on the cooperation with the members of society who have the greatest interest in reducing the crime rate.

2. The social function: The police organisation is regarded as one of the primary social organisations responsible for maintaining the balance between the behaviour of the individual in society, and the preservation of social values and traditions. The police organisation plays a very active role in maintaining this delicate balance, which, if disturbed, can lead to crime.

The involvement of the security organisation in this context does not only take place when a crime has been committed. Sufficient justification exists for such social order organisations to act as soon as the potential of crime is perceived. Crime prevention involves clipping crime in the bud by analysing the social factors that may lead to it, resolving any potentially explosive situations, and watching the behaviour of potential criminals with the purpose of taking corrective action as soon as it is required.

Social order organisations responsible for the security of the society cannot work, in this context, independently of the police organisation. The nature of the police organisation, its distribution in society, the informational data base it possesses, are all valuable resources for any social agency involved in social reform, and cannot be ignored.

3. The value function: This function is related to the social function, with a slightly different emphasis. In the social function, the security organisation attempts to make sure that no conflict arises between the individual rights and freedoms, and the general interest of society. In this function, the security organisation takes on the task of developing and protecting social traditions and values, whether they are explicitly legislated, or implicitly adopted by society. In this

context, the security organisation acts as a delicate measuring instrument of the values of society, and relays the results of the measurements it makes to the authorities involved in the legislation of laws and regulations.

4. The cultural function: The preservation of the security of the nation, and the maintenance of law and order in society, are a basic prerequisite for the development of the economic and cultural growth of the nation. In the absence of security, no society can hope to develop its potential or to realise its ambitions. Security and national development are two sides of the same coin. A nation can only develop to the extent that it can protect itself internally from the threats to its own security. In that respect, the security organisation can often be regarded as the mirror in which is reflected the level of cultural development of a society.

It can be seen, from the scope of work defined for the public security organisation, as expressed in the functions just described, that the public security organisation is the glue that holds together the various elements of society. Educational institutions, social welfare agencies, cultural organisations, economic development programmes, and legislative departments all interact with each other through the network of conduits provided by the public security organisation. Every aspect of society is influenced by it, as indeed it, in turn, is influenced by every element of the society.

It is this awareness of the nature of the public security organisation, and the development of the perspective defined so far, that has led to the necessity of reorganising the public security organisation so as to be capable of supporting the functions prescribed for it. This reorganisation, while somewhat revolutionary in nature, is essential for the implementation of the principles discussed so far, and is a natural consequence of the thought process underlying the newly developed philosophy for the public security organisation, namely the philosophy of "comprehensive security".

In order to put into effect this philosophy of "comprehensive security", the idea of the "security centre" was born, and the security centre itself needed to be created. Organisationally speaking, the security centre is the smallest unit within the public security organisation. It is a centre at which are offered all the services available at PSD, and some that aren't. The centre has a limited and well-defined geographical jurisdiction to ensure a high quality of service.

Whereas the security centre is the smallest unit in the structure, it nonetheless has an abundance of functions to perform, and it enjoys a high degree of autonomy in its operations. It only looks to

the higher echelons within the structure for direction and support, if required.

The creation of the security centre, and the corresponding elimination of two other levels in the organisational structure, namely what used to be called the "police station" and the "area police", has resulted in an organisation that consists of only three levels of command. At the lowest level, as has been previously stated, is the security centre. Some 67 of those are planned to be distributed across the Kingdom. The geographical area of jurisdiction of the typical security centre will be between 5 and 10 square kilometres, while the population that that centre will serve will typically be about 50,000 people.

At the next level up is what is called a regional directorate. Jordan is divided into 10 geographical regions. The western part of the country is primarily urban, and is divided into nine regions: Four in the north, four in the south, with the Amman region lying roughly in the middle. The eastern part of the country is primarily a desert area. The nine regions are controlled each by a regional directorate, while the desert region falls under the command of the desert police. Depending on its population, every region will have a number of security centres operating within it.

At the highest level of the organisational structure is the Public Security Directorate, which has overall control and responsibility for all police, security and law enforcement functions in the Kingdom.

It can be seen from the structure I have just described, that only two steps exist between the lowest level of the organisation — the security centre — at which most of the public interface takes place, and the highest level, namely, the director general of the public security organisation. This very short route, on the one hand, eliminates a lot of procedural red tape that would need to be gone through in order to go up the chain of command, and on the other hand, gives the various elements of the structure more responsibility, more functionality, and a higher degree of autonomy. The resulting organisation can therefore be described as one with autonomous command, and centralised control.

The security centre itself is the primary innovation in the reorganisation of the PSD, which is aimed at implementing the newly adopted philosophies within the organisation. And I should like to spend a few minutes describing to you the various functions performed within that centre, in order to give you a better understanding of what we at PSD are trying to accomplish.

Every security centre will have the following departments or offices within it:

(Continued on page 4)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Cartoons and children programmes
17:00	Programme on visit of children to Jordan
17:15	Drama Rama
17:40	Animals Express
18:15	Local programme
18:40	Soccer
19:20	Local agricultural programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:40	Arabic series
21:55	Arabic play
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Rue Carnot
18:30	L'Ecole des Fans
19:00	News in French
19:15	Cheveux de Lumiere (documentary)
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Check it Out
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:15	Private Eyes
RADIO JORDAN 5.5 KHz. AM & 99 MHz FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-1P	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsdesk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
11:05	In Concert
12:00	News Summary
12:45	Pop Talk
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instruments
14:30	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instruments
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Rhythm and Blues
19:00	Newsdesk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show continued
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show continued
22:00	News Summary
22:57	News Headline

TODAY'S EVENTS	
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1233 KHz	
07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 The Seven Ages of Man 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 08:30 Sportsweek 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Jazz for the Aspiring 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Sportsweek 10:50 Sportsweek cont. 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Pleasures Yours 12:00 World News 12:09 The Sunday Papers 12:15 Science in Action 12:45 The 8th Steps come to Land 13:00 News Summary followed by Short Story 13:15 Classical Record Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 14:30 Sportsweek 14:45 The 8th Steps come to Land 15:00 News Summary followed by Short Story 15:15 Classical Record Review 15:30 Religious Service 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sportsweek 16:45 The 8th Steps come to Land 17:00 News Summary followed by Short Story 17:15 Classical Record Review 17:30 Religious Service 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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PHOTO EXHIBITION: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Saturday opened the 88 Seoul Olympic Photographic Exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. The four-day exhibition includes 70 photos depicting cultural development in South Korea.

BAD FOOD DESTROYED: The health authorities in Zarqa last week seized and destroyed food supplies and canned food which were unfit for human consumption, according to the Zarqa Municipality Committee chairman. He said the food was seized during inspection tours of a number of stores and restaurants by municipality health teams. He said that the teams will maintain their tours and will take drastic measures against violators of health safety regulations.

MA'AN CONTRACTS: The department of public works in Ma'an has awarded contracts to local construction firms to carry out road projects at the cost of JD 97,000. The department director said the allocation will finance roads and the maintenance of others within the Ma'an-Shobak region. The department of education in the Ma'an Governorate meanwhile announced a JD 5,500 tender to pave the yards of a number of schools within the Ma'an Governorate.

CHINESE END APC COURSE: A group of workers employed by the chemical and potash industries in China have concluded a training course at the Arab Potash Company (APC) plant near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, and received their diplomas. This is the second course of its kind to be organised by APC for Chinese workers, held in implementation of a Jordanian-Chinese cooperation programme. The economic and trade attaches at the Chinese embassy in Amman were present at the graduation ceremony.

VETS CONTINUE TOURS: The Department of Agriculture in Salt says teams of veterinarians are maintaining their inspection tours of animal and poultry farms to ensure that animals and birds are in good health. In the past month it said 16,144 heads of sheep, and cattle were treated by these vets. The teams also maintain their watch over slaughter houses in Salt, Fuhais and Baqaa refugee camp.

CAMPAIGN IN MADABA: The Ministry of Agriculture has launched a campaign in Madaba district to orient farmers on proper and modern methods in agriculture. The farmers are being shown documentary films featuring cultivation of crops in rain-fed and irrigated regions as well as means of combating pests.

LAND RECLAMATION: The Department of Agriculture in Zarqa Governorate has held an agricultural seminar for the benefit of farmers in Azraq and Hallabat areas, to train them on land reclamation processes and the application of the agricultural patterns system. A number of agricultural engineers are taking part in the seminar which will also discuss desert land reclamation and planting of forest trees.

WOMEN'S UNION: A delegation representing the General Union of Jordanian Women left for Damascus Saturday on a visit expected to last several days. The delegation, led by the union's President Haifa Al Bashir, will meet with the president and members of the Syrian Women's Union to discuss bilateral cooperation.

STREET VENDORS: The Balqa governor Saturday decided to ban street vendors from selling goods along the Wadi Sh'eb-South Shouba road to prevent automobile accidents.

BICYCLE CHAMPIONSHIP: A number of Jordanian cyclists Saturday took part in Bicycle Team Championship. At the end of 38-kilometre race, Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan gave prizes to the winning teams.

UAE MINISTER: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of Water and Electricity Hameid Hameid Al Uweis, who is due here Tuesday on official visit, will hold talks with officials on UAE-Jordanian cooperation. The discussion will focus on water, electricity and irrigation.

JVA ELECT NEW BOARD: The Jordanian Veterinarians Association (JVA) has elected a new president and a six-member board to serve for two years. The president, Dr. Ahmad Ajlouni, won 93 votes out of a total of 168.

MUBARAK RECEIVES ENVOY: Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak Saturday received Jordanian Ambassador to Egypt Hussein Hamami at the end of his tour of duty.

NEW VTC COURSE: The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Saturday opened a 20-day training course for instructors employed by private and public institutions' vocational training centres. The 25 participants will hear lectures and do practical work related to their specialisations, and will design and execute vocational training programmes. The course was opened by Ministry of Education's Secretary General Munther Al Masri who underlined the importance of production by trainees as one of the most important processes of learning.

Health Ministry launches anti-diarrhoea campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry Saturday launched an anti-diarrhoea campaign in Jordan in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, in a statement upon the start of the campaign, said that diarrhoea is one of the main causes of death among children in the developing world.

WHO statistics indicate that nearly five million children die annually of the disease in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the minister noted.

"The mortality rate among children in Jordan as a result of this disease now stands at 2,500 annually, and for this reason the Health Ministry considers diarrhoea as one of the main chronic health problems in Jordan,"

Hamzeh said. He said these figures were based on statistics compiled by the ministry in 1985 and 1986 in cooperation with the WHO and UNICEF.

Hamzeh said that the current campaign entails spreading awareness among the public on means of protecting children against the disease, and these include cleanliness at home, breast feeding and proper cleanliness of children.

The Health Ministry, Hamzeh said, worked out an integrated programme for combating diarrhoea in cooperation with WHO and UNICEF aimed to reduce the mortality rate among children especially those under five years of age.

The programme, he said, is also designed to prevent cholera from spreading in the country.

Nursing graduates allowed to continue higher studies

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council for Health (HCH) decided to introduce measures allowing graduates of nursing schools to continue their higher education and obtain university degrees in their specialisations.

The council, which met under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, also decided to extend training courses given to midwives from 24 to 36 months, with a view to raising their standards and providing better qualifications for the trainees.

The HCH decided to maintain training courses for Tawjihi graduates to become assistant nurses and to offer them extended training in hospitals and primary health care centres.

Training of assistant nurses will be done through cooperation with the Ministry of Education, which runs special nursing courses at its schools in the country, according to HCH officials.

During the meeting, participants decided to set up a Jordanian Nursing Board to promote the nursing profession in Jordan and to form a special team to follow up the implementation of this decision, according to the

statement. The HCH meeting reviewed in detail the nursing situation in the Kingdom and means of increasing the number of nurses who will replace non-Jordanian nurses now working in the country.

Jordan now has an estimated 2,000 qualified nurses of whom 550 are non-Jordanians. The HCH meeting also decided to take measures aimed at preventing qualified nurses from leaving the country before serving in government hospitals and health centres for at least two years. This, according to the statement, applies particularly to graduates from the University of Jordan and the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

The HCH meeting discussed means of promoting the work of the cancer centre at the Al Bashir Hospital in Amman and decided that more equipment and qualified staff will be provided to the centre. They also confirmed that there will be no need to establish a special cancer centre at the University of Jordan as had been envisaged earlier due to high cost.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma attends the graduation of the 24th class of policewomen in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

New batch of policewomen graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — The 24th class of policewomen graduated here Saturday in a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, in the presence of Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

In an address to the graduates, Princess Basma paid tribute to the Women's Police Force in the Kingdom which, she said, is undergoing constant development.

She thanked those in charge of

training the officers. "The success of the Women's Police Force has prompted many Jordanian women to enroll, and to offer useful service to their country."

"The PSD is providing constant care and support for the Women's Police Force to enable it to adapt to the changing needs of the community and security," she said.

At the outset of the ceremony, Major Hussein Shahin, the Women's Police Force commander, delivered a speech in which

she thanked Princess Basma for attending the ceremony and underlined the country's need for qualified policewomen to maintain security and stability in Jordan.

The graduates presented a performance of their skills which included fencing and storming of buildings. The graduates later received their diplomas.

The graduates had completed a training course in police work, military exercises, sports activities and a study in legal and cultural affairs.

Police apprehend 2 drug rings

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Police in the past two weeks apprehended two groups of drug traffickers and seized their illicit

products with a street value of nearly JD 167,000, according to an announcement Saturday by the Public Security Department's

(PSD) Anti-Narcotics Division. The division director Ghalib Zou'bi said that in all, 25 traffickers of different nationalities, including Jordanians, were apprehended and that the police seized 382 kilograms of hashish and 250 grammes of heroin.

Zou'bi paid tribute to Jordanian citizens who had helped the police apprehend the two groups but gave no other details. In April, police foiled two attempts to sell 115 kilograms of hashish stored in a number of hiding places in the country and apprehended those in charge of two major operations involving the illicit goods.

In March 1988, the Anti-narcotics Department arrested four drug traffickers and seized heroin worth \$600,000 in what was described then as the largest shipment of its kind ever seized in the Kingdom in 18 years.

Regent urges graduated officers to shoulder new responsibilities

ZARQA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday attended the graduation of a new batch of army officers from the Royal Military Academy and urged the graduates to shoulder their new responsibilities with a deep faith in God and the nation, and with loyalty to the King.

its of the Third Royal Armoured Division, watched their training exercises and heard a briefing on their training programmes. Prince Hassan was accompanied on the visit by Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and a number of army commanders.

"Graduating from the academy does not mean the end of the road for army officers, but rather a first step towards a new career in the service of the nation," Prince Hassan said in his address to the graduates.

"The Armed Forces in Jordan is an institution which continues to absorb military hardware and techniques, to improve its skills and to raise the combat capabilities of its personnel, Prince Hassan said.

Indeed, he added, the young military officers "are called on to build for the coming 21st century and shoulder responsibilities for the country's future."

Prince Hassan said the military profession is a mission of honour based on faith, science, ethics and action. "It is not a mere position or status."

"In the Armed Forces one has to exercise self-denial and offer sacrifice for others and for his country," Prince Hassan added.

The Regent conveyed to the graduates greetings from His Majesty King Hussein and wished them success in their endeavour.

The graduates later received their diplomas from the Armed Forces Director of Officers Affairs Department and Prince Hassan distributed awards to those graduates who excelled in their training course.

The graduates, who form the fifth group of university graduates, then marched in military formation and handed the standards to the sixth group who will graduate after completing their course.

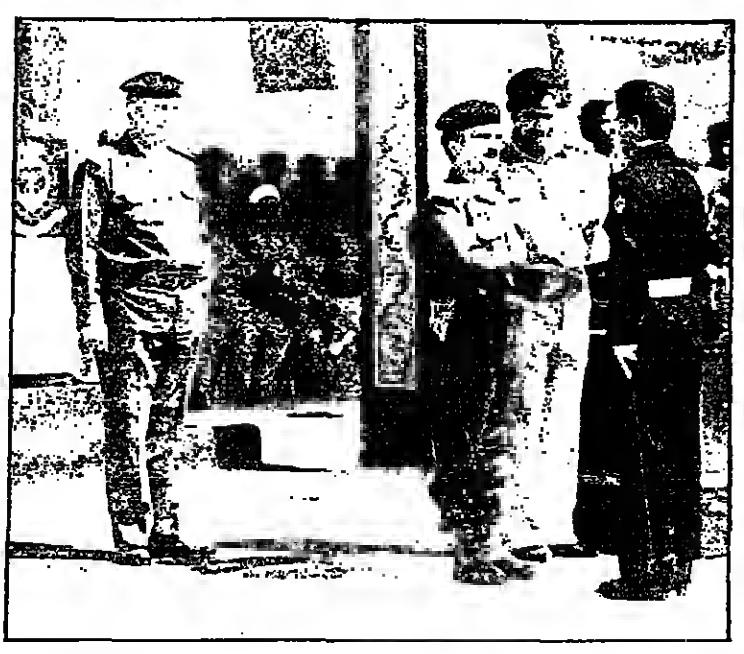
The academy commander delivered a speech on the occasion, outlining the graduates training programme.

Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and his aides and senior military officers were among those attending the graduation ceremony.

Prince Hassan later visited un-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday attends the graduation of a new batch of army officers from the Royal Military Academy. (below) A graduate receives an award from Prince Hassan (Petra photo)



Participation of children's congress due here today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Most of the participants in the eighth Arab Children's Congress are due here Sunday for the congress' formal opening by Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to an announcement by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) which sponsors the annual event.

It said in a statement that groups from the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Kuwait, Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Bahrain and Somalia will arrive by air and the Syrian team will be coming here by land.

The NHF statement said that the Iraqi and Omani teams of children arrived here on Friday but the rest, from North Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, will come on Monday for the week-long activities.

The children, aged 10 to 13, will be present at the opening ceremony organised by NHF at the Royal Cultural Centre in the

presence of Arab ambassadors.

This year's congress is expected to follow the pattern of those held in previous years, which included different activities for children, including visits to archaeological and touristic sites, other places of interest, and picnics around the country.

The NHF statement said the children will attend a seminar on the development of the Arab child.

The annual event was initiated by Queen Noor in 1980 to offer Arab children the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the culture of their Arab Nation.

The NHF said that through their shared experiences during the different programmes and visits, the Arab children are encouraged to appreciate more fully the contemporary challenges and the ancient bonds of culture and understanding that are common to all Arab people.

GUVS creates special department for children

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has created a special department to take charge of matters related to children and their care. GUVS President Abdullah Khatib said that the new department will follow up all matters related to the development of children at GUVS-run societies and nurseries in the Kingdom.

GUVS will organise training courses and hold seminars designed to improve the perform-

ance and raise the skill of teachers of children at the nursery and kindergarten levels, and will provide computers and other equipment that are deemed essential for children's development.

According to Khatib, GUVS has so far provided 155 charitable societies on both banks of Jordan with computers worth at least JD 100,000 and held training courses for teachers in the use of the computers.

Expatriates to discuss projected holding firm

AMMAN (Petra) — A draft agreement on the establishment of the projected holding company by Jordanian expatriates and the company's statutes will be a major topic of discussion by the Fourth Jordanian Expatriates Congress, which will open in Amman on July 11, according to Munther Hammoudh, the company coordinator.

He said the expatriates will discuss the company's housing, agricultural, industrial and other investment projects which will be implemented in the Kingdom through the projected company. The company is expected to have a capital of JD 5 million.

Hammoudh said the idea of such a company was created during the first expatriates congress in 1985 and consequently committees were formed in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to pave the way for its establishment.

So far the expatriates in these countries raised 40 per cent of the total capital. The present number of shareholders is 160, Hammoudh noted.

He said the coming expatriates congress will open the door for the expatriates to hold shares in the projected company.

Azmi Al Muhtaseb, director of the Expatriates' Affairs Department at the Ministry of Labour, whose department is sponsoring the congress, said that

the expatriates have offered vast contributions to Jordan's economic projects.

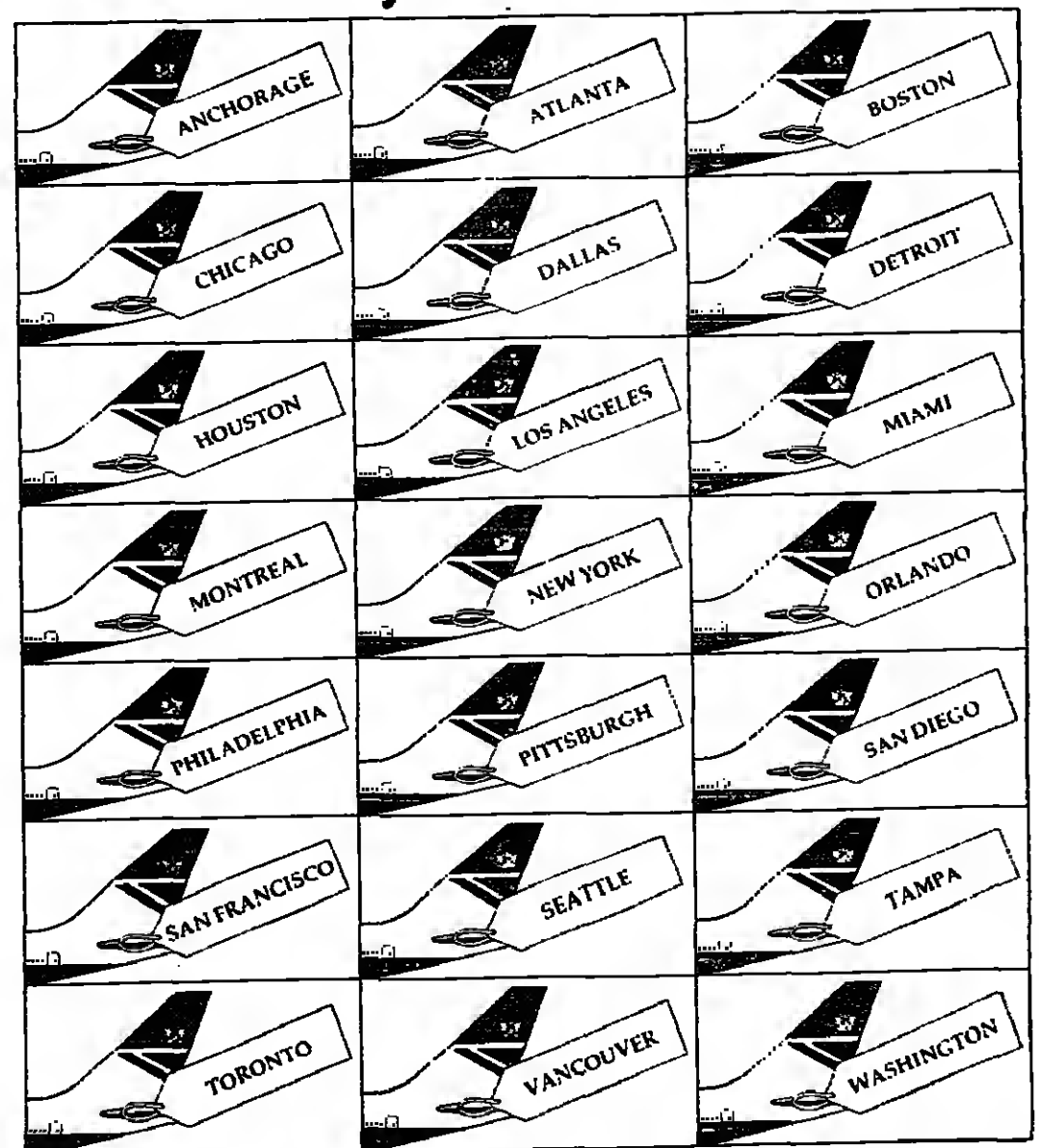
He also expressed hope that they will endorse the final agreement for the projected company in their coming meetings.

Muhtaseb said that the annual gathering of the expatriates in Amman is designed to help nearly 300,000 expatriate workers together with their families, numbering about half a million, to maintain very strong contacts with their homeland, to acquaint themselves with the economic situation in their country and to pave the way for investment in various projects.

Since the first congress, the expatriates have secured the following: The right to maintain dual nationality, the right to be covered by the social security laws of Jordan, and the right to possess housing units and higher education at Jordanian universities, Muhtaseb noted.

Director General of the Passports and Civil Registration Department Issa Omani said that the expatriates sometimes need dual nationality to help them maintain their employment abroad. Each Jordanian citizen has the right now to obtain a foreign nationality and at the same time keep the Jordanian nationality, according to Omani.

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Hats off to the Pope

WORLD Zionists are again in arms against Pope John Paul. This time it is a combination of everything: The Pontiff's decision to visit Austria, his meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, his reaffirmation of the Holy See's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and his apparent refusal to discuss diplomatic relations with Israel as long as Jerusalem remains under occupation. But more than anything else, the Zionists appear to be upset with the Pope not over the reiteration of the Vatican's well-known stands but over his reminder that hundreds of thousands, even millions, of non-Jews were also massacred in World War II. The world Zionist movement would not have cared so much if the Pontiff did not mention Jews by name in his address at a World War II prison camp Friday, but his emphasis that "Christians, Jews and others" were persecuted by the Nazis was the last straw. It undermines the very core of the Zionist argument for world sympathy and blunts the very instrument that the Zionists wave in the face of European governments whenever they want to bully them in favour of Zionist ill-deeds.

The Zionists see the Pope's remarks, coming as they did amid an international debate by historians that World War II crimes should be compared with atrocities committed by other totalitarian regimes, as another nail in the coffin of the "Jewish holocaust." They cannot accept, let alone live with, the reality that there had been, there are, and there will be others who suffered and suffer equally as, if not more than, the Jews. The Israeli refusal to acknowledge the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland is just another side of the same coin.

It was indeed courageous of Pope John Paul wittingly or unwittingly, to buckle the Zionist wrath by speaking the truth. Our hats off to the Pontiff. We hope there will be more like him who refuse to be subdued by the Zionists.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Successful visit

JAPANESE Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno's visit to Jordan was extremely successful and achieved the aspired results. Shortly before his departure from Amman Uno said that his country will continue to extend support to Jordan's efforts spearheaded by King Hussein for achieving a just and comprehensive Middle East peace. Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri announced that Japan which is a major economic power and a current member of the U.N. Security Council can play a very significant role in the Middle East peace-making process. Japan's involvement in the peace-making process is bound to have very beneficial results in view of its political and economic weight in world affairs. Indeed Japan's involvement in efforts to achieve peace will be a welcome development by all parties concerned with the issue in the light of Japan's strong relations with Eastern and Western countries and all the Arab states. This involvement shows beyond doubt that a future settlement in the region hinges on a politico-economic leverage and influences from major world powers. King Hussein's continued endeavours abroad and his efforts to win the support of major powers to solve the Middle East problem are bearing fruit, and his pursuit of justice and his keenness on establishing peace and security in this region is gaining more and more backing by all countries of the world.



Al Dustour: Rabin goes to Washington

ISRAEL'S war minister Yitzhak Rabin is going to Washington to sign an agreement paving the way for more U.S. military aid to Israel. Any weapons obtained from other countries are being used by Israel to stifle the resistance of the oppressed people of Palestine and to maintain a rule of terrorism and oppression against the Arab population. The visit takes place against the background of a long series of visits by Israeli leaders to the U.S. to obtain arms specially in an election year like 1988 when they can exercise their blackmail against the candidates for the presidency and the Congress so as to secure the largest amount of weapons and the greatest volume of economic assistance to the Jewish state. Everyone knows that the candidates for the presidency and the Congress are in a race against one another trying to win the largest number of Jewish votes to secure victory. But the on-going uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip is bound to have some sort of influence on the electorate and subsequently on the future aid to Israel. The American taxpayers have witnessed Israel's atrocities against the Arabs through their various information media, and this could have a negative effect on future U.S. aid. Rabin goes to the U.S. as the situation worsens in the occupied territories where settlers and army troops continue to kill Arabs and carry out different kinds of criminal activity. We will be surprised if the U.S. continues to supply Israel with aid and weapons with which to maintain its aggression in our region.

Sawt Al Shaab: Following the footsteps of the Great Arab Revolt

IN his address at a ceremony held at the Palace of Culture Prince Hassan stressed the need for Jordanian youth to follow in the footsteps of the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and try to fulfill their national objectives. Prince Hassan said the revolt broke out at the turn of the 20th century came to deepen the conception of a pan-Arab nationality and to unite the Arabs and bring them freedom. The leaders of the Great Arab Revolt starting with Al Hussein Ibn Ali have been keen on protecting Arab rights and lands in Palestine and also on preventing Zionism from swallowing Arab territory. Al Hussein Ibn Ali's endeavours marked the beginning of the struggle against colonialists and Zionists and the Hashemites waged a war against the Israelis in 1948 and were successful in preventing Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank from falling in the enemy hands. The Hashemites today are also keen on preserving Arab rights and fulfilling the national aspirations of the Arab World.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

All the talk, but no action

IN THE absence of conventional political parties, other vehicles and substitutes are trying hard to fill the vacuum, such as professional unions and university alumni clubs.

One of the most prominent of these vehicles and substitutes is the Jordanian branch of the American University of Beirut Alumni Club, which follows the habit of arranging an eventful dinner every month open to everybody willing to pay for his/her dinner. Each time the club invites several officials to discuss hot issues in an atmosphere of freedom hardly available in the formal channels of opinion expression.

The Jordanian elite, being unable to question officials on public matters and make them accountable, are finding at such monthly dinners, as well as during the annual conference of expatriates, valuable opportunities to do so.

The last dinner, held last Sunday, was devoted to economics. The speakers were: The minister of industry and trade, the deputy governor of the Central Bank, the chairman of the Association of Chambers of Commerce, and the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

It is, of course, understandable to have officials speak out to explain their policies and decisions or to defend them. However it is quite another story to have officials make suggestions and recommendations and, like the opposition, describe what action should be

taken. Perhaps Maher Shnkri, the deputy governor of the Central Bank, was correct in taking no more than one minute to state that the Central Bank had dealt with the money exchange crisis, that everything was then back to normal, and that he was under the disposal of the diners to answer their queries.

Hamdi Tabbaa, the minister of trade and industry, explained many aspects of the current economic situation and went on to call for import substitution, consumption reduction, re-evaluation of protection measures, improvement of the climate for investment, formulation of proper taxation policies, the promotion of internal tourism at the expense of outgoing tourism, the re-writing of certain economic laws, and getting rid of meaningless restrictions.

No reasonable economist or businessman will find himself in disagreement with the minister of industry and trade over raising these urgent demands. Perhaps we will only differ with him when these slogans are turned into specific decisions and defined policies for implementation. Let us take them one by one:

The reduction of consumption is quite acceptable by everybody provided it is imposed on others. Everyone knows that once we start talking about reducing wages, allowances, profits and rents — the only practical tools to reduce consumption — the resistance will be fierce.

The mere evaluation or re-evaluation of industry protection does not give rise to any trouble. The trouble starts when we try to agree on the conclusions of such evaluation, especially when such conclusions touch on the interests of the strong and influential.

While the necessity of improving the investment climate is almost taken for granted and widely accepted, the problem is that such improvement entails ridding the economy from restrictions and authorities which the bureaucracy would not give up without a fight.

Shifting the interest from external tourism to local tourism and tourist facilities is of course an overdue and most welcomed move by all concerned parties provided that certain financial measures are taken, such as the raising of the departure tax on wealthy citizens who spend plenty of time abroad in search of relaxation or excitement.

Doing away with rigidities that hinder the ability of the economy to adjust is supported by all, provided those rigidities are identified, because each restriction has a group that profits from it and defends it with all possible means.

Admittedly, it is very difficult for an official to be invited to make a lecture. He will find himself defending the status quo or justifying mistakes and shortcomings or denying them altogether. Otherwise he will find himself advocating policies and measures that fall within his jurisdiction. The legitimate question in that case is: Why not go ahead and do it?

'Beita does not exist on the map of Israel'

Editor's note: This is another part of the "uprising update" documented by the Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre and distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights based in Chicago.

Report on Beita village killing

This report has been revised to conform to new information obtained from the village April 19.

The Events

Beita is a village of some 6000 people 13 kilometres southeast of Nablus.

At approximately 8:30 a.m. April 6, a group of settler children from Elon Moreh and their two armed guards stopped by a spring outside the village. A nine-year-old shepherd boy stopped to see them. Villagers who were working in their fields and orchards heard four shots fired and saw the shepherd boy running.

The settler group then went up the road toward the village. At a junction to the village a young man named Tyeaser, who spoke fluent Hebrew, met them. The settlers said they wanted to go into the village. Tyeaser said that it was probably not a good idea because of the tension following the shooting at the shepherd boy and because of the general level of tension. Tyeaser offered to act as their guide to give them safe passage out of the area. While he was talking to the group villagers began to assemble around them. Rumaim Aldubi, the guard responsible for the shooting, began to get tense. He told Tyeaser to tell the people to leave. Tyeaser turned to do that; as he turned back to Aldubi, Aldubi shot him in the leg and stomach. As the people began to respond to this Aldubi began shooting. Musa Daoud Bani Shamsa, 20, was away from the group under a tree. He was killed by being shot in the head, but people did not notice this immediately.

The settlers then started down the road toward the village. Aldubi and the other guard had their guns ready; two settler children walked alongside Aldubi, protecting him. The villagers walked along, accompanying the settlers but not doing anything. By the time the group reached the village people had found Bani Shamsa's body and had taken it to his mother's home (his father is dead and there are no brothers). The mother and one sister went out to meet the group, along with other villagers. It was at this point that the settlers and villagers accompanying them learned of Bani Shamsa's death. The villagers were divided in their reaction. Most were in favour of getting the settlers out of there as fast as possible, but some argued for keeping them there. They argued that when the army arrived they could tell them that these were the people who had killed Bani Shamsa. There was a clash and Aldubi began shooting again. He shot one person in the stomach and Hatem Fayez Ahmad al Jabber, 19, in the head, killing him.

According to the villagers, Tirza Porat tried to stop Aldubi from shooting. She went up to him and grabbed his arm, telling him what he was doing was terrible. This is when he shot and killed her. Bani Shamsa's mother managed to hit Aldubi on the head, knocking him unconscious. The villagers then got the guns away from Aldubi and the other guard and lay them on the ground. Other villagers protected the children and got them medical care. One of the children protected was the daughter of Betuny Katzover (see below under Israeli reaction).

By 9:45 ABC television reporters arrived in Beita. The Israeli army did not arrive until 10:30. When the army arrived it immediately turned the high school into a detention centre, arresting hundreds and interrogating them there. They then detained some 30 "suspects." Some 300 youths fled the village. One of them, Ossam Abdel Halim, 15, was killed as he fled April 7.

Five houses in the village were immediately blown up (filmed live by Israeli TV). When Mitza was asked at the site whether he had established a direct link between the killing and injuries and the families in the houses he said "No," but that he knew stones had been thrown from the houses. Eight more were blown up April 7, after the preliminary army report finding that Aldubi's gun had killed Porat. One of the houses destroyed belonged to a family which had actively protected the children, one of whose members is a source of this report. Attorney Felicia Langer obtained an order nisi temporarily preventing further demolitions.

Six young men from the village, one of them related to Musa Bani Shamsa, were expelled from the territories April 19. The

charges against them included throwing stones against the settlers and taking the gun away from Aldubi. They were also accused of being members of the Shabihia organisation, which was only a declared illegal March 18.

Beita has been a closed military zone since these events. Olive trees have been uprooted and the Red Cross has not been permitted in.

Rumaim Aldubi, the guard responsible for the shooting, is the first and only Jew against whom the IDF authorities have issued an administrative order restricting his mobility. In 1987 they issued an order preventing him from entering Nablus for several months after he, as leader of the Nablus cell of Gush Emunim, attempted several times to establish a settlement base in the casbah of that city. He was involved in altercations with the soldiers at Joseph's Tomb and next to Balata refugee camp. Aldubi entered the army eight months ago, voluntarily, as religious are not required to serve.

Despite the other guard's claim to have coordinated the settlers' trip with the army, the army says the Elon Moreh people had not coordinated it at all; the army learned of the events only from

three American TV crews at the village.

Even in the initial report IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that Arabs, especially women, protected many of the youth; that a Palestinian doctor and nurse gave first aid on the scene; and that two Red Crescent ambulances evacuated the wounded (TV cameras also recorded this). Angry settlers called for Shomron's firing in response to these statements.

Israeli Responses

Initial stories claimed that the villagers had taken the guns and shot the guard and the girl who died and injured another 15. The next story was that no Israelis were shot and that the girl, Tirza Porat, had been "stoned to death" by villagers. The other youths injured were claimed hit by stones.

According to the April 7 army report the army investigation was "unable to establish" how the Israeli girl was killed. The report notes, however, that the bullet in her head was from the same gun that killed the two Palestinians and also that "when the guns were grabbed" by the Palestinians "their magazines were empty."

Peres sent condolences to the Israeli girl's family, adding that Israel's hand is long and will cut off the hands of "terrorists."

Gush Emunim leader Hanao Porat called it a "pogrom" and demanded the death penalty for those who killed and the deportation of all other youths from the village. "We must believe that we are the owners of this country," he said.

Settlement leader and member of the Jewish underground Benny Katzover said: "Our anger is uncontrollable."

Settlers from all over convened at Elon Moreh that night. Some, who had been at a settlement conference earlier that day, went to Beita, raised the Israeli flag and declared a new settlement, using their walkie-talkies to call for food and supplies (as was done in the early days of "irregular" settlements in the Golan and West Bank). They were peacefully dispersed by the army.

Peace Now declared that the incident showed the "blindness of the Palestinian inciters who don't want to talk to Shultz" and that the Israeli right wing must also support Shultz.

At the April 7 funeral, attended by thousands of settlers, Shamir declared that the killing

called for "divine punishment of those responsible" adding that "the blood of the nation is on the soil." He also said that the killing strengthened Israeli determination to hold on to all the "land of Israel."

Also during the funeral, not present but near it, Kahane distributed the enclosed statement and signed autographs.

Minister of Religious Affairs Ze'evulun Hammer said: "Beita does not exist on the map of Israel. A settlement should be built there and named Tirza Porat."

Porat's family declared that a settlement should be built there.

Even after the release of the army report establishing that Aldubi's gun killed Porat, the "blood," rhetoric, calls for establishing settlements, etc., continue unabated. The apparent official acquiescence and even support of extreme and uncontrolled actions, rhetoric and proposals, at a time when proposals for mass deportations and killings already have much credibility and support in the general Israeli public, does not appear to have been affected by the establishment of the village's lack of culpability in the matter.

New concept for security: Increased interaction between police, public

(Continued from page 2)

1. Social welfare office.
2. Juvenile office: It is worth mentioning here that experience has shown that female officers get substantially better results in their dealings with juveniles than male officers do. As such, all juvenile centres are operated by women police.
3. Driver and vehicle licensing office.
4. Residency and alien affairs office.
5. Address identification and verification office: Inasmuch as other agencies and municipalities are currently trying to develop a proper address system, the security centre can contribute significantly to the effort.
6. Public relations department.
7. Office of the friends of the police: This office interfaces with the friends of the police society, which is an independent charitable organisation whose members are motivated to assist the police

in their efforts in crime prevention and the preservation of society. Offices for this society are spread country-wide, and they have representation at the level of the security centre.

8. Emergency and rescue office: This office handles all the search and rescue missions, and offers ambulance and fire service. It interfaces in its activities with the civil defence organisation.

9. General services office: This office is a liaison office between the security centre and other government agencies. Its purpose is to provide the public with a single location at which to transact with all government agencies.

10. Local security council: This council consists of representatives of the police, of the local community, and of local security related agencies. Its function is to discuss security matters, and to attempt to resolve them at the local level. Recommendations on general security related matters are also made by that council to

the appropriate government authorities.

The council invites, on a regular basis, speakers from all spheres of society, educational, economic, political, judicial, cultural, etc., who discuss issues related to the general values of the society, and the procedures that need to be adopted by the society for their preservation. Again, here, recommendations are sent up the chain of command.

11. General information office: The function of this office is to gather as much information as possible about the geographical area of jurisdiction of the security centre. The resultant data base includes information on hospitals, schools, embassies, industries, commercial offices, etc., and is stored and constantly updated. Any information in the data base can be retrieved instantly on request.

12. Data processing department: This is a satellite station

linked to the directorate to which the centre belongs. It has access to its own data base, and with the right user privileges, can be made to have access to the entire data base of the police force.

13. Operations room: This is the nerve centre of the police operations in the area of the centre. It operates on a continuous basis, and has available to it communications facilities linking it with other operational units in the country, as well as the main operations centres in the regional directorate and the national directorate.

It becomes clear, when these functions are analysed, that the primary objectives of the creation of the security centre can be summarised as follows:

1. To interact directly with the public, and solicit their help in crime prevention by building bridges of trust through services performed by the police in all areas of social fields.
2. To by-pass the time consum-

ing red tape procedures and ensure that issues reach their targeted destinations in the shortest possible time, and.

3. To allow the centre autonomy of operation while maintaining centralised control for quality assurance of services offered.

Many theories have been developed relating to the role of the law enforcement agency in society. The development of these theories and of new perspectives is an on-going process, a dynamic process, motivated primarily by social currents, and reflecting the changes in the values of the society.

We at PSD are aware of our political reality. We are aware of the constraints placed upon us, and of our responsibilities. We are constantly inspired by the wisdom of His Majesty's guidance, and by the never-ceasing support that he has given.

I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.

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كردنا لاجل

20 years of occupation

Following is the first part of a six-part collection of briefing papers on legal aspects of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The briefing papers, were drawn up by Al Haq, a West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists. The next five parts of the collection will be published by the Jordan Times in the next five issues.

Introduction

TWENTY years have passed since Israel took control over the West Bank and Gaza in the six-day war of 1967. After 20 years, the unusual circumstance of a military occupation has assumed features of permanency.

Today more than ever there is a need to take a close look at the situation in the West Bank (including Jerusalem) and Gaza.

Al Haq prepared a series of briefing papers on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the occupation. These papers deal with the following topics:

1. An overview of the legal and human rights situation after 20 years of occupation;
2. The West Bank legal system and structure;
3. The military court system;
4. Administrative measures of punishment and control;
5. Trade unions under Israeli occupation;
6. Suppression of academic, cultural and political life.

These papers do not provide a comprehensive picture of the situation in the occupied territories after 20 years. They serve merely as an introduction to this topic, and may help in directing the focus toward what we believe are the most significant trends and patterns of the occupation.

For more detailed and comprehensive information, please consult our other publications, or contact us directly at our office in Ramallah.

Briefing paper No. 1:

Twenty years of occupation: law and rights

When Israel took military control over the West Bank and Gaza in June 1967 many thought that the occupation would be of a short duration. Today, 20 years later, the Israeli authorities are showing no serious sign of wishing to relinquish the territories, but to the contrary are holding on to them with an "iron fist", while exploiting human and material resources.

Legal control: What is most remarkable about Israel's occupation is the elaborate legal framework that is used to govern the territories. The Israeli authorities have created new laws and resurrected defunct ones in an apparent attempt to further their political goal of colonisation. Because of their status as occupied, the West Bank and Gaza are subject in the first place to international law. Applicable international law is the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Under the provisions of these conventions, the occupying power must observe the laws that were in force prior to the occupation, and may amend them solely either to protect its legitimate security concerns, or to advance the interests of the local population. What in reality has happened?

Military orders: The occupied territories are currently ruled by a myriad of military orders (1191 in the West Bank and close to 900 in Gaza) and unscrupulous regulations which have amended and thereby transformed the pre-existing Jordanian law beyond recognition. The authorities have issued these orders citing either security concerns or the interests of the local population. On the basis of these military orders, which cover all aspects of daily life and are often phrased in ambiguous terms, the Israeli authorities in the West Bank and Gaza have been able to expropriate land for public purposes or declare it state land; to impose heavy taxation on economic and commercial life; to restrict the entry of people into the area, with a clear view of trying to keep Palestinians outside their homeland; to suppress political, social and cultural activities; and to punish those who have chosen to resist actively such practices. From the beginning of the occupation, military orders have been used to control business life in the Territories, requiring a permit for most economic activities. Since 1982 a number of new military orders have further extended the authorities' control over the flow of funds to the Territories used to finance a plethora of economic and social projects.

Security justification: The authorities routinely quote security concerns for most of the actions they take, but have refused to define what security means to them, or to explain which criteria fulfill Israeli security requirements in any given case. As a result the authorities have been able to use the security argument to justify a number of fundamental features of their occupation, including land confiscation and settlement, the introduction of civilian settlers, changes in the territories' administrative structure, and punitive measures against the Palestinian population.

Local interests: The authorities have also justified legislation of measures on the basis of realities that themselves came about as a result of illegal acts. For example, Israeli civilians were introduced into the occupied territories contrary to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Once they had settled, they were officially designated as "local population." The authorities could then justify actions like expropriation of land to construct roads leading to Israeli settlements on the basis of the "interest of the local population", while systematically neglecting the interests of the Palestinian population.

Defence regulations: In addition to creating new legislation, the authorities have resurrected the "Defence (emergency) Regulations" which were issued by the British mandatory forces in 1945 and revoked by them on May 14, 1948. By virtue of these regulations, which were not used during the Jordanian period, the Israeli authorities continue to deport Palestinians or place them under town arrest, demolish and seal houses, and impose censorship.

Legal recourse: Although the authorities' control over the territories has the trappings of a legal structure, once it comes to appealing a military order or protesting the violation of a right, there is very little effective legal recourse. Individuals convicted in a military court have no route of appeal open to them but can only ask for clemency. Acquisition of land through expropriation orders or orders declaring land as state land may be objected to before a military tribunal, which, however, can only make a recommendation to the authorities who issued the order. Administrative measures such as deportation may be appealed to the Israeli High Court of Justice, but the High Court merely reviews the Military Commander's authority in issuing such an order rather than the merits of the case, and so far only a handful of administrative orders have been reversed. (See also Briefing Paper No. 3).

Arrest and detention: Palestinians arrested on suspicion of "security offences" are detained for varying lengths of time during which they are routinely exposed to mistreatment and sometimes torture at the hands of interrogators. They often will not see a lawyer until after they have signed a confession. If convicted they must endure prison conditions which are unacceptable by international standards. Al-Haq notes in this respect physical mistreatment, reduction of air circulation, use of tear gas, overcrowding, and

AL-HAQ

LAW IN THE SERVICE OF MAN



restrictions on movement.

Iron fist policy: In August 1985, the Israeli authorities launched their "iron fist" policy in the occupied territories. Intensifying the use of administrative punishments, they have deported Palestinians or placed them in administrative detention or under town arrest without charging them or bringing them to court. In addition, they have demolished and sealed houses of the families of individuals suspected of resistance activity as an act of collective punishment. Such practices have occurred in waves throughout the period of occupation, often after settler hysteria and consequent pressure on the authorities to act in some way or other against the Palestinian population.

Freedom of movement: The military authorities have imposed strict controls on the movement of people. The occupied territories have been declared a closed military area. This means that travelling abroad or entry from abroad is contingent on permission from the military authorities. It also means that residents of the occupied territories may not stay in Israel between the hours of 1 and 5 in the morning.

Family reunification: The number of Palestinians abroad who have been denied the right to rejoin their families in the West Bank is large, and the authorities so far have refused to release the criteria which they claim to apply in deciding who may enter and who may not. Al Haq suspects that the authorities' refusal results from their fear that disclosure will show that few of the rejections of family reunification applications are justified on the basis of their own criteria. Even though in most countries that have restrictive immigration policies families are still allowed to reunite, many Palestinian families remain divided by the practice of the Israeli authorities.

Culture and education: Al Haq has become increasingly concerned in recent times by the authorities' severe attitude toward cultural and educational institutions in the occupied territories. Universities are habitually closed for varying periods of time, usually on flimsy pretexts and at great cost to the institutions. In the absence of a vibrant economic and commercial life, higher education is an important avenue of self-fulfilment for many Palestinians, and restrictions on education are therefore a particularly salient violation of the rights of the population.

Administrative structure: The West Bank and Gaza are ruled by a military government. Although nominally having a separate administrative apparatus for civilian affairs, the territories are integrally linked to Israel's own administration. Government departments of the Jordanian period in the West Bank serve Israeli interests and, although staffed by Palestinians, are fully supervised and controlled by Israeli personnel. In no matters like, for example, budget allocations is the civilian administration accountable to the local population, which is taxed but not represented on levels of decision-making. In Gaza the situation is identical.

Land and settlement: According to Meron Benvenisti, by 1985 more than 50 per cent of the land of the West Bank (here not including East Jerusalem) had already been acquired by the military authorities either for immediate or future use of Jewish settlers. Over a hundred Israeli settlements have been established on Palestinian land in clear contravention of international law which prohibits the introduction of citizens of the occupying power into the occupied territory. The settlers are armed, and habitually carry out vigilante-type attacks on the Palestinian population. Effective action to constrain them is not always taken. As a result, the security situation in the West Bank continues to deteriorate.

Economy and resources: The economy of the West Bank and Gaza has been integrated into the Israeli economy to a considerable extent: approximately 150,000 workers cross daily into Israel in search of work; towns and villages have been linked up to the Israeli power grid and telecommunications network; important health and social services have been taken over by the authorities; and access to water is also controlled by the authorities. Control over resources and services has meant control over their allocation, and in many cases the allocation, for example of water or communication lines, has been clearly discriminatory in favour of Israeli citizens, whether in the occupied territories or in Israel itself. Only one Arab bank has been allowed to reopen in the West Bank in the past twenty years.

De facto annexation: Considering prevailing trends and patterns in the occupied territories today, one can discern a definite movement toward annexation of the West Bank and Gaza by Israel, if not legally then at least in effect. The authorities are involved in a large-scale and long-term colonisation effort, flaunting applicable international law which has laid down guidelines for the occupying power in order to prevent such colonisation. Many Palestinians fear, and not without justification, that the authorities' motive is to take the land, but without the people.

Obligations of an occupying power: Under international law the West Bank and Gaza are occupied territories whose final disposition remains undecided pending a just resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Any military occupation is by definition temporary. It is the occupying power's obligation by international law to enable the occupied population to create its own institutions which protect its interests and which will serve as the basic infrastructure for its future society once the occupation has ended. The Israeli authorities, on the contrary, have consistently reneged on these responsibilities, and instead have advanced Israeli interests to the extent that a reversal of the situation is becoming increasingly more difficult to envisage.

The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 relative to the protection of civilians in time of war is applicable to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, according to most members of the world community, including the United Nations and the United States government. The Israeli authorities, however, continue to deny the Convention's applicability, but have declared that they will observe its humanitarian provisions. They have failed to specify which provisions they consider humanitarian in character, however, and continue to violate numerous of its provisions as indicated above, including some that are clearly humanitarian in nature such as the prohibition on deportation. As long as international law is not applied, no guidelines for Israel's administration of the areas it occupies exist, leaving the authorities free play in realising their political goals.

According to Article 1 of the Convention, signatory powers have the obligation to enforce the Convention's provisions themselves, and to ensure their enforcement by the other signatory powers. So far, the governments who signed the Convention have failed to observe their duties as signatories, and no significant pressures have been applied on the Israeli authorities to comply with the Convention's provisions. It is Al Haq's hope that, twenty years of occupation having elapsed, these governments will recognise the burden of that responsibility, and seek the enforcement of the Geneva Convention and a just resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

3 wounded in Kuwait beach explosion

KUWAIT (R) — Three children playing with a metal object they found on a beach were wounded when it exploded Friday, an Interior Ministry official said. The official, quoted by the Kuwaiti News Agency, said they suffered light shrapnel injuries from the object washed ashore near Al Zour, 80 kilometres south of Kuwait city. The ministry warned residents not to touch strange objects that may have washed up on Kuwait's coastline. Al Zour is less than 160 kilometres from the Iran-Iraq warfront. Local newspapers reported last month that Iranian corpses had washed up near Al Zour.

U.S. envoy arrives in Qatar

DOHA (AP) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy arrived Saturday in this Gulf state for talks with the Qatari leadership. His fifth stop of an eight-state swing, the Qatari News Agency (QNA) reported. Murphy, the assistant to U.S. secretary of state in charge of Middle East affairs, is discussing means of ending the war between Iran and Iraq. He is also reviewing the Arab-Israeli peacemaking process. He came to Qatar from Oman, which shares control with Iran of the Strait of Hormuz.

Lebanon's waters not 'radioactive'

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese territorial waters are neither radioactive nor contaminated by tons of Italian toxic waste dumped in the chaotic country, according to news reports Saturday. Beirut's daily Al Safir said the Lebanese Health Ministry issued a report saying the waters were not contaminated after an expert committee examined samples of sea water Friday. A Lebanese businessman imported 2,400 tons of toxic chemical waste from Italy two weeks ago and some of it was reported dumped on the Kesrouan coastal strip 30 kilometres north of Beirut. In addition, about 40 barrels inscribed "Cairo oil" and containing suspicious-looking pink and golden powder were discovered off the coast of Tyre in South Lebanon, and Tabarja in the north. The two events, combined with an outbreak of skin rashes among people who swam in the sea, drove the usually stoic Lebanese off their beaches. "The contents of the barrels, the sea water and fish examined are not radioactive," said the report. "The barrels contain organic brown powder that does not include any heavy poisonous metallic material," it said.

U.S. helicopter crashes in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — A U.S. army helicopter on a surveillance mission in the Gulf crashed after suffering mechanical difficulties but the crew was rescued unharmed, a U.S. military spokesman said in the Gulf Friday. There was no hostile fire involved and the crash was "controlled ditch," the spokesman told a U.S. Defence Department press pool. The accident happened at 2000 GMT Thursday in the central Gulf. The spokesman said the helicopter was on a "routine surveillance mission" at the time and the crew was recovered without injury. It was not immediately known how many personnel were on the helicopter at the time.

Greek base workers end strike

HERAKLION (AP) — Greek workers at a U.S. air base on this southern island ended a monthlong strike Friday and returned to work, a union representative said. The 250 workers had walked off the job May 23 to press for a 15 per cent pay hike and special allowances for their employers, Pacific Architects and Engineers. The strike at the Gournes air base, 16 kilometres outside the city of Heraklion on the island's northern coast, had affected the delivery of food, fuel and water to the installation, the U.S. air force said. "The Greek Labour Ministry said they would give us special allowances that equal the 15 per cent pay hike we wanted. But it doesn't mean we are happy," said the union representative, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Moscow says U.S. distorting Soviet image

KUWAIT (AP) — The U.S. secretary of state is trying to distort Moscow's image in the Arab World by giving the impression that Soviet and American attitudes on the Middle East are growing close, a top Soviet official said in an interview published Saturday.

"We have been astonished over remarks by Shultz during his recent Middle East mission to the effect that the Soviet Union and the United States hold identical views on the Middle East, thus giving the impression that the Soviet Union endorses the Shultz plan," Alexander Ivanov-Galitsen, of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, was quoted as saying.

Galitsen, who heads the ministry's Arab Gulf section, said in an interview with the newspaper Al Anbaa: "Such statements are evidently aimed at distorting the Soviet stance and driving a wedge between the Soviets and the Arabs."

Galitsen said that the two superpowers were "still wide apart" on the Middle East.

"We differ with the Americans on the Arab-Israeli conflict on several scores," he said, listing Moscow's endorsement of the Palestinian right to self-determination, the call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and for the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the proposed international peace conference.

The United States does not agree on these points, all demands of the Arab World.

He defended the recent meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York, saying "Israel is a key party in the Middle East conflict, and it is imperative for us to establish contacts with it."

PLO 'split has stopped financial aid to uprising'

BEIRUT (R) — A statement issued through Palestinian sources in Beirut said Friday conflict among Palestinian factions has halted Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) financial support for the six-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The statement, signed "The Followers of Abu Jihad's Route," was issued to Reuters by a Palestinian faction in west Beirut which asked not to be named. The faction said the statement came from Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"A phase of compromises and conflicts have taken over the PLO and individual political interests now dominate the unity of the cause and uprising," the statement said.

"This has ended coordination between the leaderships inside the occupied territories and those (the PLO) outside and stopped all financial aid and support to the uprising from the outside," it added.

It said conflict began after Abu Jihad, PLO deputy military commander, was killed in April by assassins widely believed to be Israeli forces.

A committee set up carry on his task of directing and supporting the uprising had triggered "chaos, disorder and severe conflicts within the PLO ranks," the statement said.

Palestinian sources in Beirut said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had set up the committee but excluded Abu Jihad's wife who had previously played a considerable role. Her exclusion had split Arafat's Fateh group, the sources said.

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Iraqis retake Majnoon

(Continued from page 11)

apparently staged an amphibious assault to storm the Iranian positions from the flanks.

Tehran Radio said the islands were defended mainly by the Badr division, a unit of dissident Iraqi rebels armed by Iran.

INA said elements of the Third Army Corps moved in from the west across the narrow causeways, neutralising Iranian artillery and armour concentrations.

It also cut an embankment linking the islands with the Iraqis' rear area to prevent reinforcements being moved up, the agency reported.

Earlier Iraqi assaults to dislodge

the Iranian failed because they could not deploy their superior armour and artillery in sufficient force along the causeways.

This time, the Iraqis apparently used their tanks as short-range artillery to pound the Iranian defences, while sending infantry units across the causeways.

INA correspondents with the assault force reported that hundreds of Iranian corpses were floating in the marshes as the Iraqis retreated eastwards.

The Iraqis heavily outnumbered the Iranian forces, who claimed the Majnoon Islands were "liberated" by noon (0900 GMT).

Palestinian protests continue

(Continued from page 1)

The army clamped a curfew on Khirbata village near Ramallah after residents threw stones at Israeli cars, an army spokesman said.

Jewish settlers set up a roadblock near the village Friday night before the army imposed the curfew, Israel Radio said.

Also Saturday, police ordered closed two Arab private schools. Police said the closure followed some stone-throwing attacks on police in which students took part.

Police have linked the renewed tension in Jerusalem to the latest

leaflet put out by Palestinian leaders. It called on the Palestinians to intensify protests in Jerusalem and challenge Israel's occupation of the city.

The leaflet also designated Sunday as a day of attacks on Arabs working for Israel's "military administration" in the occupied lands, "those remaining outside the will of the people and at headquarters of appointed municipalities."

A top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel could not "see the light at the end of the tunnel" and predicted the Palestinian uprising would continue.

House prices boom in most major cities around the world

NEW YORK (R) — Oblivious to the stock market crash, property prices are booming in most major cities around the world. This is what emerges from a recent Reuter survey which shows Britain and France leading the European property bull market.

Prices in the most sought-after areas of England have climbed by 45 per cent this year. In the most fashionable area of Paris, prices tripled over a five-year period.

"In my 21 years in this business I have never seen the housing market so strong in all price ranges," said Trevor Kent, president-elect of Britain's National Association of Estate Agents.

Japan, India, Australia, Poland, Kenya and Chile were also experiencing a strong real estate market, but in West Germany it was slow and in Morocco and the debt-ridden Latin American countries of Mexico, Brazil and Argentina it was weak.

In North America, Washington and Toronto have experienced booms since the crash, while Chicago and Los Angeles have recorded strong price increases.

In New York, the overall market has been termed "soft" except at the lower level and at the top range where foreign buyers have pushed prices higher.

In five countries was the October stock market crash cited as a factor in the condition of the property industry. Rather, it was a result of local conditions.

Art Aston, executive vice president of the Los Angeles Board of Realtors, said the crash had "little or no impact" in his region.

"Here in California, real estate has always been seen as a solid investment and not volatile like the stock market," he said.

In Argentina and Brazil, economic crises have been blamed for a housing market that has remained stagnant for several years.

In Mexico the slump in the price of oil, of which it is a major producer, was identified as the culprit.

Chile, on the other hand, has enjoyed an economic recovery for the past four years since overcoming its debt crisis.

"The house market is strong because there is confidence that the economy will continue to grow," said a Santiago agent.

He reported that a two-bedroom house in one of Santiago's preferred leafy suburbs cost about \$55,000 now compared with \$50,000 last year.

Madrid, long a backwater in the European property market, is also experiencing a robust market, with the price of a two-bedroom house or apartment tripling in the past five years.

The reason, say property dealers, was an influx of foreign investment since Spain joined the European Community in 1986.

In Tokyo, a voracious appetite for homes caused land prices to triple between 1985 and mid-1987 before pulling back as speculators cashed in their profits, but they are still twice as high as three years ago.

Kenya's political stability has attracted investors from other African countries, creating a shortage of affordable housing which has driven prices 60 per cent higher since 1983, according to local estate agents.

With a lull in building, the cost of a house is expected to surge by a further 35 per cent this year.

In Washington, prices soared by 25 per cent in the first quarter of the year due to low interest rates and declining unemployment.

In Toronto, a severe housing shortage has thrust prices 25 per cent higher in the past year.

Britain, Australia and India are among the few countries to identify any impact from the stock market crash, and all say it helped to boost prices.

In Britain, Kent said that as a result of the crash, many investors had returned to the safe haven of property.

"The man with, say, £25,000 (\$45,000) to invest has had his fingers burned in the stock market, and has said to himself 'let's put the money into the house instead,'" he said.

In Sydney, the cost of a house has swelled by more than 20 per cent since the October crash, while in the same period prices in India have zoomed by five to 10 per cent a month.

"Demand for property is far outstripping supply," said R.P. Gupta of Gupta Associates, who said houses were being snapped up by non-resident Indians sending money home after the crash.

Japan boasts by far the most expensive housing, with a 750-square-foot (68.7 square metre), two bedroom apartment fetching on average \$500,000 to \$800,000.

"Even if you had 100 million yen (\$800,000) to spend on an apartment, what you would get in town is nothing special. It is crazy," said one office worker looking for a home.

Italy, West Germany and France were also high-priced. A two-bedroom apartment goes for \$320,000 to \$480,000 in a prime area of Rome or Milan, while in Munich it fetches \$360,000.

\$335,000 in Stuttgart, \$250,000 in Frankfurt and \$200,000 to \$300,000 in Paris.

In Central London there was an enormous range of property prices, with a modest two-bedroom flat costing \$150,000, while a luxury flat in a prestige area would cost \$450,000.

U.S. prices varied widely too, with an average two-bedroom home costing \$280,000 in Los Angeles, \$96,000 in Washington and \$90,000 in Chicago.

In Toronto, Canada's largest city, the cost was \$120,000.

Mexico City's average price for similar accommodation was \$200,000, while in Madrid it was \$135,000.

In Singapore there was a range of \$75,000 to \$100,000, while in Sydney a similar apartment cost \$70,000.

In Kenya, a two-bedroom house in an up-market Nairobi suburb would cost \$115,000, but the same size dwelling in a government subsidised, leasehold housing project could be had for \$23,000.

Latin America, India, Morocco and Poland of the countries surveyed had the most affordable housing. A two-bedroom apartment fetches an average of \$62,000 in Brazil, \$55,000 in Chile and \$20,000 to \$50,000 in Argentina.

The same apartment would cost \$38,000 to \$54,000 in New Delhi (but \$77,000 in the commercial centre of Bombay) and \$50,000 in Morocco, where small houses on slum clearance projects can be had for as low as \$2,000.

The average apartment in Poland — where the waiting list is long — costs \$17,500, but it reaches \$30,000 in some areas of Warsaw.

The vast majority of Moscow residents live in state-owned apartments which cost a token rent of \$17-\$25 a month, but a few are available for purchase in cooperative blocks for about \$20,000.

It was formally signed in Luxembourg by Genscher and EC Commissioner Willy De Clercq and by Comecon Secretary Vyacheslav Syrov and Czechoslovakia's First Deputy Prime Minister Rudolf Rohlicek.

It will pave the way for the EC to open diplomatic relations with individual Comecon members and end years of suspicion when the 12-nation EC was seen as the economic arm of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

"The signing of the joint declaration... is another proof that with goodwill and realistic attitudes, states having different social systems can reach agreement on major international issues while adhering to their basic positions," Rohlicek said.

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The two sides, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, will discuss means of overcoming the problem.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa was quoted earlier last month as saying that the government will not exceed the limits of the Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol.

The minister's remark followed the emergence of a crisis that involves nearly \$300 million in Jordanian exports to Iraq in excess of a \$185 million ceiling allocated in the trade protocol.

The Central Bank of Jordan, which is entrusted with financing exports to Iraq, cannot afford to finance the excess exports, according to the bank's deputy governor Maher Shukri.

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Karabakh dispute flares on eve of party conference

MOSCOW (R) — The disputed Soviet region of Nagorno-Karabakh has asked to secede from Azerbaijan, Pravda said Saturday, blasting the demand as unconstitutional.

The report by the Communist Party newspaper raised the stakes ahead of a major party conference on political reform which will discuss ethnic relations when it opens Tuesday.

Ethnic tensions along nearly the entire Soviet periphery have flared into the open ahead of the conference, with the Baltic republics demanding greater autonomy from Moscow and party leaders in Central Asia voicing concern over conflicts.

But the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, a small Azerbaijani enclave where ethnic Armenians form 75 per cent of the population, is by far the most sensitive regional issue faced at present by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian majority want the mountainous region to be transferred to Armenia. They have paralysed the region's economy with a four-week general strike which the

authorities in Moscow admit is out of control.

Pravda deplored the refusal of the region's citizens to heed a call from the Nagorno-Karabakh governing council, which met Tuesday, to go back to work.

It said demonstrators surrounded the print works of the local party newspaper Friday to protest its omission of details from the resolution adopted at Tuesday's council session.

Pravda said the omission consisted of "words to the effect that the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region, without waiting for any decision by the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament), is seceding from the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic."

"Such an unconstitutional formulation was indeed adopted at the session," it said.

Residents of Stepanakert, the Nagorno-Karabakh capital, told Reuters by telephone Saturday

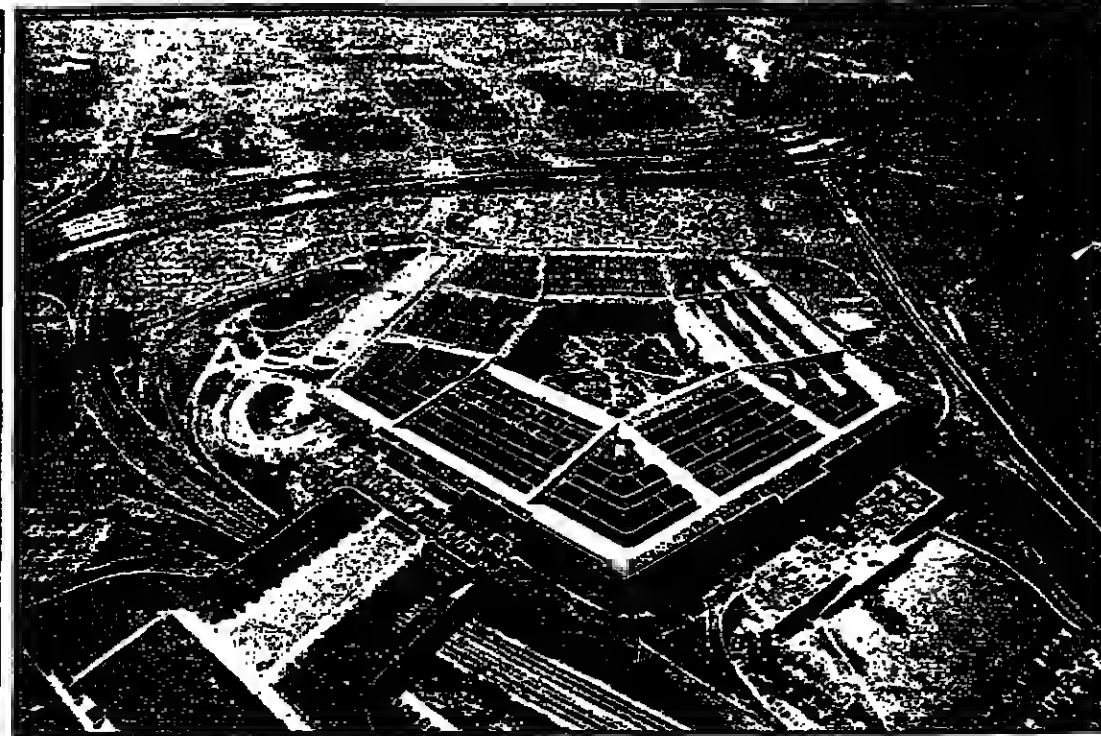
morning that they had not yet seen the full text of the resolution.

But a version broadcast by Armenian radio did not use the word "secession". It said the council asked that the region be administered temporarily by the Soviet government in Moscow.

"Perestroika," Gorbachev's reform drive, has been used as a slogan by demonstrators in the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to demand greater autonomy from Moscow. But Latvian party leader Boris Pugo said in an interview published Saturday that calls by local intellectuals for greater autonomy had been abused by "irresponsible elements" and denounced the Latvian media for failing to react.

On Saturday, the party leader of Uzbekistan acknowledged tensions between ethnic Tadzhiks and the majority Uzbeks.

Meanwhile police erected metal barricades around Moscow's Pushkin Square Saturday ahead of a planned demonstration by a group campaigning for a multi-party system in the Soviet Union.



An enormous scandal is shaking the foundations of the Pentagon (Sygma photo)

Tapes show Pentagon officials receiving bribes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators have videotaped that show two Defence Department officials allegedly taking bribes from private consultants in return for information on lucrative defence contracts, according to a broadcast report.

The report surfaced as members of Congress are debating how the government should treat defence contractors under scrutiny in a wide-ranging probe into whether they bought information from consultants who got the information from Pentagon officials they bribed.

The secret information could have given the recipients an advantage in competing for contracts worth billions of dollars. Between 75 and 100 Pentagon contracts may have been tainted, according to prosecutor Henry E.

Hudson.

The investigation is the latest controversy to shake Washington, coming on the heels of the criminal investigation of Attorney General Edwin Meese III's activities and the Iran-contra affair.

NBC news, citing unidentified sources, reported Friday that Victory Cohen, a deputy assistant secretary of the air force, and James Gaines, a deputy assistant secretary of the navy, both appear on the videotapes.

Both men have been temporarily reassigned to other duties since their offices were searched last week by investigators.

Gaines' attorney, Michael Schatzow, said he had no comment on the NBC report, but added: "I'll just wait and allow everybody who's been reporting

these stories to wait and be embarrassed later."

Cohen's attorney, Seymour Glazer, was unavailable for comment.

The network said the consultants shown on the videotapes include Melvyn Paisley, a former assistant secretary of the navy whose office was searched by federal authorities last week.

Paisley's attorney, E. Lawrence Barcella, denounced the officials who provided the information to NBC.

Security Council condemns South African attacks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council Friday condemned South Africa for the shooting of three Botswana policemen and what it said was the related bombing of a vehicle and a house belonging to a Botswana citizen.

The members of the council stated that South Africa's latest attacks on the territory of Botswana are "in flagrant violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity" of the country and expressed grave concern at South Africa's disregard of repeated Security Council warnings about past attacks on Botswana.

Shots fired by five South African commandos attempting to mount a cross-border raid Tuesday injured three Botswana policemen. Two commandos suspected of the shooting were captured.

On Wednesday, a house and a vehicle were bombed in attacks that the Security Council said were related to the South African raid. No one was injured.

Botswana has come under frequent attack from South Africa because it allows the African National Congress (ANC) to operate from its territory. The ANC is waging a guerrilla war against South Africa's practice of apartheid, the legal policy of racial segregation.

In a statement that strongly criticised South Africa's aggression against Botswana and other bordering nations also opposed to apartheid, the Security Council reiterated that "peaceful changes in South Africa can only be brought about by the total eradication of apartheid."

Democrats platform skirts key issues

DENVER (Agencies) — Democrats released a preliminary party platform Friday that promises to restore "competence and hope" to the U.S. presidency but avoids any talk of higher taxes, a freeze on defence spending or a Palestinian homeland.

The 3,500-word, eight-page draft was being debated, revised and voted on late Friday by a 16-member drafting committee. Jesse Jackson's supporters were expected to put up a fight on the tax, defence and foreign policy issues.

The drafting committee, chaired by Congressman William H. Gray, will turn the work over Saturday to the full 186-member platform committee, which will try to put the document in final form by Sunday.

But Jackson, the only remaining Democratic challenger to Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, has said he may take his fight over such issues as higher taxes on the rich and a defence department freeze to the floor of

Cairo silent on missile charge

CAIRO (R) — Egypt maintained an official silence Saturday over charges that two Egyptian officers planned to illegally ship material for a sophisticated missile system from the United States to Cairo.

"I have nothing to say... I have no comment," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Meguid told reporters.

The case appeared likely to disrupt smooth relations between the United States and one of its main Arab allies. Egypt receives \$2.3 billion a year in U.S. aid, second only to Israel.

Military sources said Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdel-Halim Abu Ghazala was briefed on a U.S. Justice Department statement Friday that two colonels were among five people charged in the case.

A government statement on the affair was expected later, the sources said.

The Justice Department identified the Egyptians as military officers Mohammed Abdulla Mohammed, an army colonel based in Washington, and Hussain Josef, a colonel based in Austria.

Federal agents said Mohammed was an administrative officer at the Egyptian embassy in Washington. U.S. Attorney David Levi said Mohammed claimed diplomatic immunity and was released after his arrest.

'RedSquare' club opens in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pictures of Stalin, May Day parades in Moscow and everyday life in the Soviet Union flashed on screens at the new "Red Square" nightclub, touted as a cultural classroom in disco guise. "We want to make the idea of peace sexy, something people will want to pursue," said Sanford Keller, one of two local nightclub owners presenting the once-a-week event in a former warehouse that for years was a dance hall. Patrons at last weekend's opening gala absorbed the cultural experience, even getting into the spirit by wearing T-shirts with pictures of the Kremlin emblazoned on them, but most said they were just looking for a good time. Among the guests were Alexander D. Terekhin, consul general in San Francisco for the Soviet Union, and several of his aides and their spouses.

First ugly art show and auction

DETROIT, Michigan (AP) — A relic from a Las Vegas casino and a garish still life bought in Paris are among the "treasures" to be auctioned next month in the first ugly art show and auction. Organisers promise the show and auction will be the "maddest, the meanest and the prettiest auction." Pastor David Eberhard, who also is a member of the Detroit City Council, said he hopes the July 20 sale of the bad-taste pieces will raise \$10,000 for the two million dollar project at the historic Trinity Lutheran Church. Among the ugliest pieces were a bas-relief slab painted in dull gold depicting what looked like the Greek god Poseidon riding a sea monster. The item once was part of a casino's decor. Perhaps the least offensive piece is a linen table napkin autographed by opera star Luciano Pavarotti, who sang in Detroit earlier this month.

Restaurants tackle no-shows

LONDON (AP) — The party of five from the advertising agency was not unusual, says restaurant owner Neville Blech. They reserved a table for 1 p.m. and called at 1:40 to cancel. But for Blech, "it was the last straw." He sued the agency in small claims court and won, demonstrating how some British restaurants are beginning to fight back against the age-old problem of no-show diners. "These people are messing about with my livelihood. It's bad news," says Blech, who won \$140 or the average gross profit from a lunch for five at Mijanaou, his posh 30-seat French eatery. While few choose to sue, many are casting off customary British reserve to fight what they say is growing inconsiderateness among modern diners.

'Forgetting all that money?'

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — For the second time in five months, maids at a motor hotel have found a bundle of cash worth thousands of dollars inside a room. "What, again?" asked police detective Warren Martin after a cleaning woman reported finding \$5,000 Sunday. Martin has been trying to locate the owner of the last batch of money, about \$10,000, at the Budget motel. Officer Larry Smiley said the maid who found the latest money was "really pretty calm about it. I can see someone forgetting their toothbrush, maybe even their luggage. But all that money?" The man who most recently rented the room left an address in Arizona after first starting to write Kansas on the desk register. Police have the name of the man who last rented the room where the \$10,000 was found and traced him to an address in California, but attempts to contact him have been unsuccessful.

Oscar nominee 'stole books'

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (AP) — Jerry Gustaf Hasford, who wrote the screenplay to "Full Metal Jacket," has been charged with stealing numerous library books, a prosecutor says. He was charged with two counts of grand theft and 10 of possession of stolen property, said deputy district attorney Jerry Estrada-Mul-laney. The charges involve approximately \$20,000 worth of books from public libraries in California, Missouri, the U.S. state of Washington, London, and city, county and university libraries in San Luis Obispo, Estrada-Mul-laney said. Police had found about 10,000 books in his rented storage lockers at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Manigat gets cool welcome in U.S.

MIAMI (AP) — Ousted Haitian President Leslie Manigat's stopover in Miami Friday on his way to an International Forum of Christian Democrats in Rome won't win him support from Haitians living in the United States, a Haitian-American leader said.

"He thinks he'll look better in the eyes of the Haitians back home, but he's not going to get a tribute here," said Roger Blamby, head of the Haitian-American Community Association of Dade.

"He should not be allowed to come to the United States. He's a

traitor to the Haitian people, he's a traitor to democracy," Blamby said, referring to allegations that Manigat was connected to the violence that disrupted Haitian elections.

"We were not supporters of Manigat," said the Reverend Gerard Jean-Juste, who heads the Haitian Refugee Centre, a grassroots organisation in the Little Haiti section of Miami.

Manigat arrived in Miami Friday afternoon aboard a private 10-seat jet.

Burma universities close down

RANGOON (AP) — The government has closed almost all universities and institutions of higher learning in Burma in the wake of riots and other anti-government activities over the past week, residents in several areas of the country said Saturday.

Rangoon, where rioting erupted Tuesday, was calm although traffic was lighter than normal. A dusk-to-dawn curfew remained in force.

Residents contacted by telephone said classes had been suspended at higher learning institutions in Mandalay, the country's second-largest city, as well as Taunggyi, Moulmein, Pegu, Bassein, Myit-kyina and Akyah.

The government imposed a series of restrictions hours after students and other demonstrators clashed with police in Rangoon Tuesday. Over the next few days the protests spread to Pegu, north of Rangoon; Moulmein, on the south-eastern coast, and the Irrawaddy Delta.

The latest protests were sparked by the government closure of the Rangoon Arts and Science University where students staged a peaceful demonstration demanding release of arrested students and the legalisation of student unions.

Gandhi expands cabinet after humiliating defeat

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi appointed six new cabinet ministers Saturday in a bid to refurbish his government's image after this month's by-election reverses.

Two state chief ministers, dismissed Friday in an effort to revive his Congress (I) Party's fortunes, were among the six.

S.B. Chavan, ousted as chief minister of Maharashtra in face of mounting opposition, replaced Finance Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari, who became chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Chavan told reporters after he was sworn in that his main priority would be to improve the investment climate in India.

Tiwari had taken several steps to improve the investment atmosphere and reports on Friday that he might be shifted from the finance ministry caused nervous-

ness among stockbrokers. Vir Bahadur Singh, who was forced to quit as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, joined the cabinet.

Other entrants were Madhav-sinh Solanki, a former chief minister of Gujarat, and former ministers B. Shankaranand, K.K. Tiwari and Kalpana Rai.

Gandhi shifted P.V. Narasimha Rao from the human resources ministry to head external affairs, a post Rao had held before.

Gandhi, who had held the external affairs portfolio, said he was giving it up to concentrate on political work.

The changes were sparked by humiliating defeats for the Congress Party in parliamentary and state by-elections this month, including the loss of a prestigious seat in Allahabad.

Managua urges renewed talks

MANAGUA (AP) — The Sandinista government publicly urged the U.S.-supported contra rebels to agree to renew peace talks next week in an effort to end Nicaragua's civil war.

A statement Friday by the presidential press office also suggested that, if the contras refuse, a special meeting be held in Miami, Florida, to discuss extending the cease-fire. It is scheduled to end Thursday.

The statement said the government made the proposal in a message that General Humberto Ortega, the defence minister, sent Friday to Alfredo Cessal, director of the contra umbrella group called Nicaraguan resistance.

Representatives from both sides have tried to negotiate an

end to the war off and on since March 21. They negotiated a provisional cease-fire, but have been unable to agree on how to make it permanent.

They also disagree regarding contra demands that the Sandinistas undertake democratic reforms before the rebels put down their weapons.

The original cease-fire for 60 days ended May 30, and was extended by tacit agreement for 30 days, while the negotiations continued. But the contras broke off the last round of talks June 9 in Managua, claiming the Sandinistas were not negotiating on good faith over the reforms.

Earlier this week, Ortega sent a message to the contras urging a new round of four days of talks in Managua beginning Sunday, but

so far the rebel leaders have not replied.

The proposal coincides with a visit scheduled by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He is to visit Nicaragua's neighbours — Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica — Wednesday through July 1 to discuss the situation in Central America. Shultz is not scheduled to visit Nicaragua.

The proposal also coincides with calls in Washington for renewal of U.S. military aid to the contras.

Top Nicaraguan officials, including President Daniel Ortega, who is the defence minister's brother, have claimed that Shultz's visit is part of preparations for either direct or indirect U.S. military intervention

blocks evaporation on ground level while the hydrophilic emulsifier acts like a sponge and keeps a humid bulb around the plant's roots.

"Normally, water falling on sandy soil penetrates quickly and deeply and evaporates fast," he added.

"But when soil has been treated with our emulsifier, water remains in suspension in a kind of pocket up to 1.5 metres deep," De Boodt said soil treated with the emulsifier retains water long enough for plants to grow to a healthy size.

The product has been tested with success in African, Chinese and Arabian deserts as well as in Malaysia, he said.

"Plants die more from an excess of salt than from lack of water. The trick was to find a way to keep water from evaporating too fast. In the desert, water either sinks too deep or evaporates too fast, bringing too much salt to the surface and killing

plants."

De Boodt and Hartmann, who work at the Soil Physics Department of Ghent University's faculty of agricultural sciences, say the tests promise unlimited prospects for agriculture in arid regions.

Next year, the university will open a European branch of the newly created International Institute of Eremology, whose headquarters will be in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Eremology is the science dealing with deserts. It comes from the Greek word "eremos," which means "desert."

De Boodt said eremological research began in earnest 15 years ago in the United States, the Soviet Union, Israel and Egypt.

"We were all looking for a bituminous emulsifier which would both retain and reject water without harming plants."

He said research efforts were generally hampered by sharp rises in the price of oil, from

which the bitumen is derived.

"This discouraged many researchers. However, we kept at it," said De Boodt. The product was developed in 1981 with the help of the Belgian oil company Pretoria.

Other researchers, he added, have since followed suit. But the "black milk" has been the most extensively tested.

Prof. William Larson, head of the soil science department at University of Minnesota, praised De Boodt's work, calling him "one of the few outstanding leaders in the world in this field."

"Professor De Boodt has been concerned all his life with the structure of soil, heat transmission through soil and good movement of water through soil. In recent years, he has spent a lot of time trying to amend, to improve soil structure, to keep soil from crusting too hard by using asphalt," the American said.

De Boodt is one of the organisers of an international conference on soil amendment which will take place in October at the University of Minnesota, Larson added.

The Belgian researchers say the "black milk" is of great use in oil-producing countries that have huge bitumen surpluses.

De Boodt said in Egypt tests results with the bituminous emulsifier have been so promising, there are plans to fertilize two million acres of desert by the year 2000.

In their tests, De Boodt and Hartmann grew fresh fruits and vegetables in Niger, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

De Boodt said the "black milk" stabilises the soil and checks erosion.

In Brazil, he said, it is now in use to keep iron ore from caking when it is dumped into blast furnaces and to protect tree seeds until they are ripe for germination.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

13 killed in Punjab

NEW DELHI (AP) — Suspected Sikh extremists killed at least 13 people in separate attacks in the strife-torn state of Punjab, the United News of India (UNI) reported Friday. The latest deaths raised to 1,389 the number of people killed since the start of this year by Sikh militants or suspected militants in the northern state, according to police. Sikh separatists shot and killed two Hindu priests in Hoshiarpur district Thursday night, UNI said. They were identified as Charan Singh and Ram Lal. A Hindu businessman, Prem Chand Aggarwal, was robbed and killed by Sikh gunmen Friday in Batala town in Gurdaspur district, a major stronghold of Sikh terrorists. UNI said that a 13-year-old Sikh boy, Jaswant Singh, was killed in Amritsar city by Sikh extremists. A woman, identified only as Bhano, also was killed in the firing. One person injured in a bomb explosion in Amritsar last Tuesday succumbed to his injuries, raising the toll in the blast to 26, UNI said.

Mozambique to return church lands

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — The Marxist government will hand back to churches some 90 installations seized in 1975 when all health and education services were nationalised, the national news agency, AIM, reported Friday. AIM said the announcement was made by Jacoo Baptista Cosme, chairman of the Maputo Executive Council, at a ceremony in which facilities such as the old Roman Catholic Church's seminary at Matola, on the outskirts of the capital, were returned to the religious organisations. Cosme said such ceremonies were taking place throughout the country and that 90 installations, most of them schools and health centres, were to be returned to religious groups and churches. AIM said a process of dialogue and cooperation between the state and churches was begun in 1982 by the late President Samora Machel.

W. German arrested for selling babies

MANILA (R) — A West German woman accused of heading a syndicate that bought Philippine babies and sold them in Europe, has been arrested in Manila, officials said Saturday. Immigration officials said Margaret Kresser, 48, was picked up at her home Friday by agents who seized about 10 birth certificates, infants' clothing and affidavits of parents surrendering custody of their children. "These are parents who would be willing to sell their children in exchange of a few Deutschmarks," said an immigration official. She said officials had tracked down Kresser through a "shipment of babies" immigration agents had stopped at Manila's international airport.

8 killed in Calcutta riots

CALCUTTA (R) — More than 30,000 Hindus and Muslims clashed over worship rights to a shrine, killing eight people and injuring nearly 100 in India's West Bengal state, police said Saturday. Police said they sealed off the riot-hit Berhampore area, about 200 kilometres north of Calcutta, after Hindus and Muslims armed with home-made bombs and knives clashed Friday. Railway authorities were ordered not to stop trains there. N. Krishnamurthy, a senior state official, said "Katarsa Mosque had been declared an historical monument by the archaeological survey of India in 1910 and no community has any rights over it." However, Hindus claimed it was not a mosque but a temple and threatened to take over the building.

New party formed in Brazil

BRASILIA (R) — An important grouping of centre-left politicians opposed to the government of President Jose Sarney formed a new political party in Brazil Friday. The group, which bills itself as a Social Democratic Party, was founded by 47 congressmen, most of them defectors from the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB). They will officially choose a name Saturday. Founders accused Sarney of betraying the country's transition to democracy after Brazil's 1964-85 period of military rule. The outstanding political name in the new grouping is Sao Paulo Senator Mario Covas, the former PMDB leader in Congress. The founders of the new party said the PMDB, which has 13 ministers in Sarney's 27-man government, has abandoned its commitment to social reform. Their main quarrel with Sarney is that he fought for and won the right to rule for five years, until 1990, after originally pledging to rule for four.